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THE MARTLET

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UVic's food outlets failing

Vancouver Island Health Authority slaps high-hazard rating on five campus eateries

David Karp

Five UVic food outlets have received failing grades from the local health authority in the last four months.

The University Centre cafeteria, Cadboro Commons cafeteria, Village Greens, Student Union Building Health Food Bar and Nibbles and Bytes all received a high hazard label from the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA).

A high-hazard rating, the worst rating the health authority gives before forcing a facility to close, means a food outlet "significantly increases the risk of food borne illness" and "is approaching the maximum level of risk considered acceptable for its continued operation," VIHA's website noted.

"It indicates that the operator has to be a bit more diligent about something or fix a problem," explained Ann Thomas, VIHA's regional manager of health protection. "I wouldn't say that it means you're going to have a higher chance of going to that restaurant and getting sick."

The University Centre cafeteria and Cadboro Commons cafeteria were not refrigerating some items at a low enough temperature when the health inspector visited during the summer. In addition, the residence cafeteria wasn't keeping its roast beef warm enough, there were inadequate controls to keep flies out of the kitchen and trolleys weren't cleaned. Both cafeterias were reassessed as low hazards — the lowest level possible — when the inspector returned for a follow-up inspection. Refrigeration prevents food pathogens from growing, explained Joseph Odumeru, a food science professor at the University of Guelph.

"Typically, E. coli doubles every 20 minutes [if contaminated food is not refrigerated]," said Odumeru. "Most organisms, including salmonella and listeria, also double every 20 to 30 minutes. If it's not refrigerated, you're increasing the risk."

He said food should be refrigerated at 4 C or 5 C.

"At any temperature above 5 C, the chance of an organism multiplying increases. At 10 C, it really becomes an issue. It's what we call temperature abuse," Odumeru said. Measurements by VIHA found the sushi fridge at 10.2 C in the University Centre cafeteria in August. Egg salad, tuna and ham were held above 9 C at the wrap and sandwich station also in August. Pea salad was being held at 10.6 C at the residence cafeteria in July.

UVic food services manager Thomas Bain said the hot summer weather might have contributed to the refrigeration problems in older buildings with insufficient ventilation systems.

"It's an area where the equipment that is trying to keep things cold is around equipment that is trying to heat things up," Bain added. "And some of the equipment is getting on a bit [in age]."

He said the university is spending approximately $50,000 to replace three fridges. Bain noted the university uses air-cooled units, which have compressors that give off heat. The alternative would be water-cooled fridges, which UVic refuses to purchase because of water conservation policies.

"You get two or three [air-cooled fridges] sitting next to each other, which is not uncommon, and they're creating heat themselves. If they were water-cooled, you wouldn't have that nearly as much," Bain said.

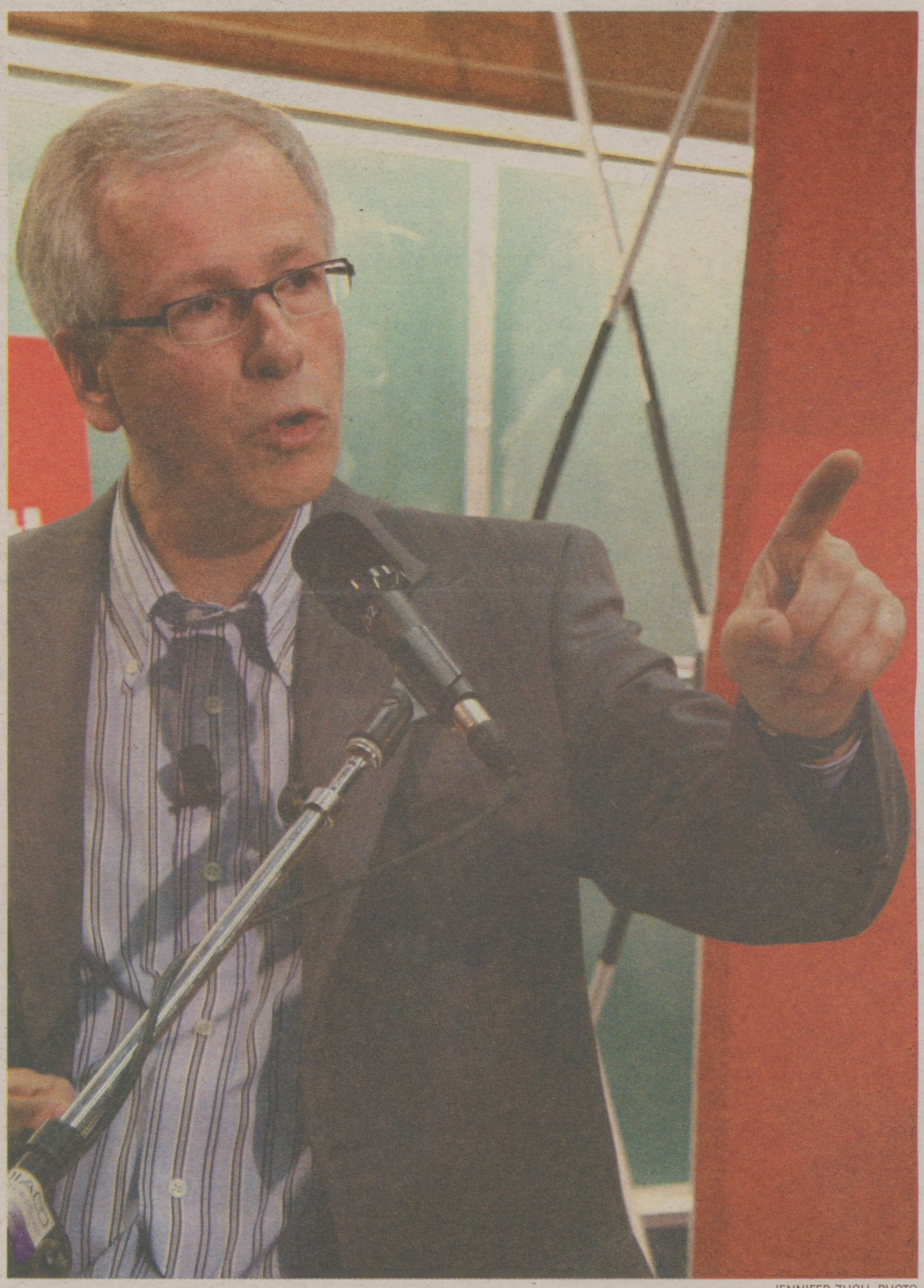
Improper heating was the cause of the high-hazard rating at two other outlets. Village Greens, the vegetarian cafeteria in residence, was not keeping stir-fry ingredients at high enough temperatures and the SUB's Health Food Bar was keeping chicken and chili at low temperatures and not reheating them properly. Both problems have since been fixed.

Odumeru said that some toxins can survive in cooked products if they aren't reheated properly.

"There are some organisms, like Staphylococcus aureus, that produce enterotoxins, and the enterotoxins are heat stable," Odumeru explained.

See *University official*, p. 3

CARBON CONVERSATION



JENNIFER ZHOU PHOTO

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion made a stop at UVic on Friday, Sept. 12 to talk about his Green Shift plan. See story on page 3.

Both sides move on offers, but fail to end the SUB strike

Sam VanSchie

Another round of negotiations saw no resolution to the wage dispute that has closed the Student Union Building since Sept. 4.

Nearly 150 unionized workers in the SUB are rotating shifts on the picket line asking students to support their request for higher wages by not entering the building.

At negotiations the union moved off their original request for a one-year contact that would see a $1.50 raise for student-workers in the lowest pay bracket currently earning $9.95. They offered to take a two-year contact that guaranteed a $1 raise in the first year and 75 cents the second year. But, when the offer wasn't accepted, they removed it from the table.

The employer's highest offer was for a three-year contact with raises of 50 cents the first year and 25 cents each of the next two years for a total of $1. Previously they offered 30 cents in the first year and one per cent increases for the next two years (an equivalent of about 10 cents per year).

"It's huge. We've moved a lot," said UVic Student Society chair Caitlin Meggs, spokesperson for the employer, explaining that it's easier to phase in a higher raise rather than offer $1 the first year.

Meggs crossed the active picket line for the first time on Tuesday to use her office. She said she had been in the SUB when the strikers weren't outside and that it made her uncomfortable to have to cross them.

"But students are asking for things that I need to be in the office to do," she said. "It's a really hard position to be in."

Bargaining Committee member Ben Johnson said he expects more negotiations this week after the strikers get together for a meeting to see if they are willing to accept less that $1.50 in order to get back to work.

Starting Sept. 26, union members will start to receive strike pay of about $150 per week from the United Steelworkers.

KAT ESCHNER PHOTO

SUB workers continue to strike.

BC Transit increases bus service to university

Nick Olynyk

BC Transit expanded its service to UVic starting Sept. 2, with the addition of new buses and more pickups as a result of new government funding.

The seven per cent service increase will happen in two phases, both benefitting the Gordon Head area. Service to the university will increase by 40 per cent with emphasis on morning and afternoon rush hours.

The timing of the company's largest ever expansion is due, said BC Transit spokesperson Joanna Morton.

"We've seen it time and time again; every September it's just chaos ... everybody is back to school, back to work and trying to figure out what their schedule is," Morton said. "We usually expand every September, and we change our service times and hours."

The first phase of the increase will place more buses throughout the city, allowing a greater volume of riders between downtown and the university. Additionally, four new community routes will be added in phase two, which includes a smaller community bus for the Gordon Head area.

JOSH SZCZEPANOWSKI PHOTO

Approximately 17,000 people take the bus to or from UVic every weekday.

Transit officials hope to alleviate crowding on university routes through 16 new double-decker buses.

"Students are our greatest demographic and we really want to target them, giving greener options and green choice," Morton said.

The $800,000 buses are slowly trickling onto city streets as they arrive from Britain — each taking 18 to 24 months to make — since there are currently no North American manufacturers. Until they arrive, some afternoon stops may be cancelled if enough buses are not available.

"We have transit planners within the company that actually do [route] survey work and actually assess the service that we have provided," Morton said. ""You can plan all you want, but in reality it sometimes doesn't match up."

Each day, 17,000 people board buses to or from UVic, a number that persuaded officials to add 556 new trips this September. This means UVic students make up 18.5 per cent of all bus riders within the city.

Despite the upgrades, fares will not increase. A $15.6 million injection from federal and provincial governments will alleviate the costs associated with the service increase. Riders will also notice aesthetic changes this fall. Victoria Regional Transit, the local partner of BC Transit, will scrap its 27-year-old blue and red stripes for a new scheme of blue and green. The colours are part of a rebranding campaign that includes a new logo for the company.

Continued from p. 1

University official insists campus food is safe

"So even though you've destroyed the organism, the enterotoxins still survive. You have the chance of still being sick because of these heat-stable toxins."

Nibbles and Bytes in the Engineering Lab Wing was the most recent facility to be labelled a high hazard. The sandwich and pizza cooler was keeping items above 6 C, while soup wasn't being kept warm enough, when the inspector visited Sept. 4.

When the inspector returned Sept. 8, the sandwich and pizza cooler was still keeping foods at unsafe temperatures. Though the soup was warm enough, the cafeteria did not have its own probe thermometer to monitor the soup's temperature.

Nibbles and Bytes was downgraded to a low hazard on Sept. 11, though the problem fridge hasn't been replaced. Bain said UVic is buying a new fridge for the café, but will continue to use the broken one until it arrives.

Zoë Sager, a third-year English student, ate a slice of pizza from Nibbles and Bytes for lunch on Sept. 12.

"Oh God," said Sager, after learning about the high-hazard rating. "This was the first time [I ate here], and I think now it will probably be the last."

Others weren't as concerned.

"This is the first I've heard of it. I haven't had any health issues recently," said Jeremy Long, a computer science PhD student who also had a slice of pizza on Sept. 12. He often buys drinks from the café and occasionally buys food. He said he doesn't plan to stop after learning about the health inspections.

"I usually like the hot chocolate here, and it's close," said Long, who studies next door in the Engineering/Computer Science Building.

VIHA determined the hazard was not significant enough to close Nibbles and Bytes.

"When a health inspector does an inspection, if they feel the situation at the time is a serious public health risk, and if someone eating at that facility at that time is really putting their health at risk, that restaurant would be closed," said Thomas.

Bain insists food at UVic is safe.

"Every single member of our staff has a professional designation. We take all the temperatures every day and have the complete nine yards of Foodsafe plans," he said.

CORRECTIONS

- **Student not shot at Red Jacket:** The Martlet wishes to apologize and clarify that a View Street parkade, not Red Jacket Nightclub was the scene of Victoria's first homicide this year, as the photo on page 5 of the Sept. 4 issue incorrectly states.
- **Advocacy groups missed:** There are five constitutional advocacy groups within the UVSS, as stated by the UVSS website: ACCESS UVic, Anti-Violence Project, Native Students Union, UVic Pride Collective, Students of Colour Collective and the Women's Centre. Students for Literacy and the UVSS food bank are not advocacy groups, as wrongly stated by the article on page 3 of the Sept. 11 issue.

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B.C. won't be double taxed, states Dion

Sam VanSchie
CUP WESTERN BUREAU CHIEF

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion says his federal plan to tax carbon won't double the burden on B.C., where gas has been taxed at the pump since July 1.

"You can consider it a double tax-break," Dion told the 200 people who packed into a lecture hall at UVic on Sept. 12, the first day of his Western Canada tour.

"It's unfair to call it a new tax; it's a green shift," the former environment minister emphasized.

Dion said his carbon plan will be harmonized with the existing one in B.C. to ensure they don't overlap.

"You have a courageous premier; with him I share the same goal," Dion said. "I'm here to reward a province that starts first, not make anything detrimental."

He said there will be no addition to the existing 10-cent federal tax on gasoline. And the fuels that will get a new tax, such as coal and oil, are used relatively less in B.C. where hydro-electricity is the main form of energy.

Though Prime Minister Stephen Harper called Green Shift a cash grab, Dion insists all the increases will be revenue-neutral as required by law. Tax added to fuel will be balanced by cuts to income tax.

Earners in the lowest tax bracket (the first $37,885 of taxable income), for example, will see a 1.5 percentage point rate reduction under the plan.

Further, for residents of rural areas, where the B.C. carbon tax has been most opposed, a $150 tax credit will help offset the cost of their greater fuel dependence.

"My Canada will be a leader in the fight against climate change," Dion said. "For this election we do not need a selfish short-term agenda . . . we need to have a government that will govern for the next generation."

According to David Boyd, the environmental lawyer who co-authored David Suzuki's Green Guide, carbon taxing has helped countries like Norway, Finland and Sweden become leaders in addressing climate change and developing energy-saving technology.

"Reducing taxes . . . on income and investment, and raising taxes on things like green-house gasses and pollution cause three things: a cleaner environment, healthier people, and a stronger economy," Boyd said.

"It's very refreshing at this time to finally see a party and a leader realize that [global warming] is the defining issue of our times," said Andrew Weaver, who shared a Nobel prize with Al Gore for his work on climate change.

While Dion's main campaign message is about addressing global warming, he said: "We will never be a one-issue government. We need also to address poverty, to address the economy; we want to address all the needs of the people, and we need to keep our relationship with the planet healthy."

Dion let slip reference to an upcoming announcement about social housing and homelessness, then kept his lips sealed about what he will do to confront rising tuition costs.

"That announcement is coming later in the campaign," he said. "But I can tell you it will be very significant."

Before entering politics, Dion, like his wife Janine Krieber, was a university professor in Quebec.

He said it's important to him that young people are able to study in Canada and not be held back by financial restraints.

He also said that he supports sewage treatment for Victoria, honouring the ban on oil tankers in B.C.'s inside passage, and having more transparency in the North American Security and Prosperity Partnership.

JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

"My Canada will be a leader in ... climate change," Dion said on Friday.

ROOM TOO SMALL

While 200 people piled into a lecture hall in the Human and Social Development Building, lining the walls and sitting in the aisles, several hundred were left outside, unable to hear Stéphane Dion's talk on campus.

UVic Young Liberals President Shaun Wysiecki said the group found out Wednesday that the Liberal Leader would make a stop in Victoria on Friday, and they had to scramble to find a spot to accommodate him, without knowing what time he'd arrive.

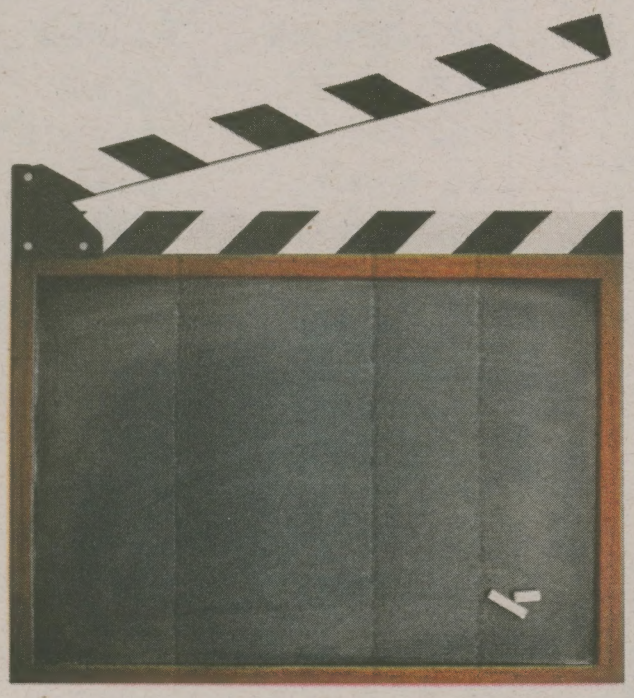
"That's the way it is on the campaign trail," Wysiecki said. "You never know what to expect."

A Facebook group was made for the event and 1000 people were invited before the time and room was confirmed. The day before the event those details were added.

Over 600 people lined up to get into the room, but with priority seating given to media and local Liberal campaign assistants, there weren't enough seats for all the students that were interested in hearing Dion.

Some got a glimpse of Dion walking into the hall or at the press conference following the event. National campaign assistants answered the questions of the crowd left outside.

Come turn your ideas into action.



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For more information, please contact Naomi Devine at 250-507-2589 or nsdevine@uvic.ca

www.uvic.ca/sustainability

University of Victoria

Teen thrown in drunk tank after asking directions

Will Johnson

Asking for directions may get you thrown in the drunk tank. This was the lesson learned recently by Nataya Stasiuk, 19.

On Sept. 1, Stasiuk was at a pool party that was shut down by police after a noise complaint. She approached a Victoria police officer outside the party and asked him if he could help her find her way home. By her own admission, Stasiuk had consumed "a couple of drinks," but she felt adequately sober.

It was her fourth night in town, and she was unsure how to navigate the nearby streets. When she asked the officer if he could give her some tips, at first he ignored her. When Stasiuk asked again, she said he "rudely" dismissed her. Stasiuk asked him for his name and badge number. Moments later, she found herself being forced into the back of a van.

"I guess I was too loud. He thought I was drunker than I was," Stasiuk said.

Stasiuk, who moved to Victoria from Prince George, was in disbelief at the sudden turn of events. She said she banged on the windows, begging to be let out. She sat in the back of the van for what she estimated to be over an hour. Later, she discovered dark bruising around her wrists, where the policeman had grabbed her.

The police officers finally drove Stasiuk to the station and put her in a solitary room, where she said she could barely sleep because she had no pillows or blankets. When she asked to make a phone call, she was told she wouldn't be allowed.

"My roommates didn't have any idea where I was," she said.

In the morning, Stasiuk was upset to learn that she wouldn't be given the chance to make a phone call or be given a ride home. Instead, she was released at approximately 7:30 a.m. in the middle of downtown, an area she was unfamiliar with.

"I was upset, cold, crying," she said. "It was the worst day of my life."

Stasiuk was given some bus fare and a sweater by some sympathetic travelers.

That morning one of Stasiuk's roommates drove down to the station to look for her, and found the police unhelpful and rude. After a couple hours searching for Stasiuk, the roommate returned home and found her missing friend curled up in her bed crying.

"I am extremely upset," said Stasiuk's other roommate Nigel Lax, 19. He attended the party with Stasiuk, and said she was not drunk or out of control. He feels like the police acted irresponsibly.

"These are the people who are supposed to be upholding the laws, but it seems like they're the ones breaking the rules," he said.

Hosts of the party were generally unhappy with the way the police handled the noise complaint.

"They basically tricked us," said UVic social sciences student Cody Puckett, 20. After threatening to fine the residents $1,000 if the hosts didn't allow the police inside, Puckett said they "barged" into the house and started yelling. Before the police left, they fined the hosts.

"They grabbed this one guy, I guess to make an example of him," said Puckett. "They took him by the arm and chucked him out the door. Then they came back in and they're like 'Who's next?'"

KAILEY WILLETTS PHOTO

Nataya Stasiuk, 19, claims she was wrongly sent to the tank.

"It was crazy over-reacting," said Heidi Hopkins, 21, who said she was enjoying the party until the police arrived. Hopkins thought there was no reason for the police to get involved. After kicking out some of the people swimming at the party, police refused to allow them to retrieve their clothes from inside.

"These people were in bathing suits, bras and underwear, whatever they were swimming in. It's the middle of the night, and they won't let them get their clothes?" said Hopkins.

Sgt. Grant Hamilton, spokesperson for the Victoria Police Department, said there are many difficulties inherent in dealing with intoxicated party-goers. Though he could not speak about Stasiuk's situation specifically, especially if she is planning to lodge a complaint, he spoke with the Martlet about police protocol.

Recently, the Victoria police force has been augmenting their staff hours to have more officers doing patrols for liquor on beaches and in parks and public places.

"We're trying to be pro-active," said Hamilton. He said that summer is their busiest season, but as a result of their increased hours they have seen a significant decrease in violent assaults.

As far as people being thrown in the drunk tank, Hamilton said people need to display a "state of intoxication in a public place." He said officers need to judge whether the person has become "stupefied" to a "marked degree," and whether or not they present a danger to themselves or others.

"If someone's stumbling into traffic, doesn't know what's going on ... that's when we're investigating further," said Hamilton. The police's primary goal is to keep people safe while giving them an opportunity to sober up. The mininum stay in the drunk tank is four hours, but could be longer.

"It really depends on the individual, and their level of intoxication," said Hamilton.

Since the lawsuit brought forward by Willow Kinloch earlier this year, the police have been reviewing their policies and procedures, particularly in regards to the treatment of minors. Kinloch alleged that she was mistreated while in custody, and the case is still in progress.

Hamilton said the police are not obliged to inform family or friends if someone is arrested for public intoxication.

"It might be embarrassing," said Hamilton, who said most people do not want others to know they've been arrested. However, if the arrested person asks them to inform their friends, police could potentially facilitate that.

"I've been out on patrol and had someone ask me to tell their friends they've been arrested, and we've gone back to do that," he said.

However, sometimes it is not possible due to the chaotic nature of clubs, bars and house parties. Quite often they are also en route to other calls, and do not have time, he said.

Hamilton also noted that UVic and many of its related house parties are outside the Victoria area, making them the responsibility of the Saanich or Oak Bay police.

However, he said most organizers of house parties are very co-operative, and often only a warning is required.

"We speak to the owner, let them know there's a complaint ... and hopefully that's the end of it," Hamilton said.

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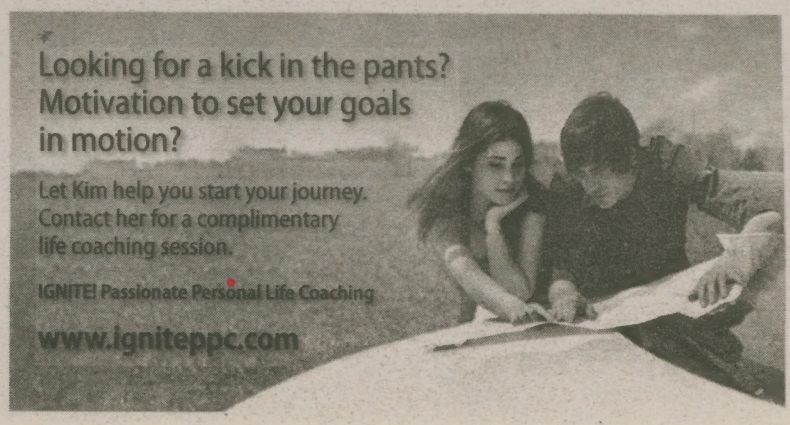
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Canadians get a decision of their own

Understanding why we were called to vote discerns what issues matter

Cody Willett

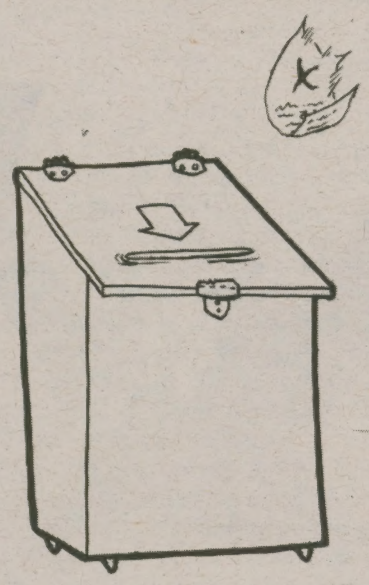
Just like our southern neighbours, Canadians will cast a critical vote this fall. On Oct. 14, voters will have their say in a referendum on the performance of our Parliament and who we want to lead it.

After weeks of speculation, Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper asked Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, to dissolve Parliament on Sept. 7 so that formal campaigning could begin. Although the Harper government passed Bill C-16, a law establishing fixed election dates, Prime Minister Harper cited a "dysfunctional parliament" as the reason for rejecting the legal date set for Oct. 19, 2009.

Most polling data indicates a close race between the ruling Conservatives and the opposition Liberals, with each party hovering in the 30-35 per cent range nationally for months before the election call.

Canada's other main national parties, the New Democratic Party and the Green Party, are campaigning to grow their share of the vote from their current ranges between 15-20 per cent and 8-12 per cent respectively.

The Conservative Party, flush with cash compared to other parties, ran pre-election ads aimed at Liberal leader Stéphane Dion and his Green Shift carbon tax proposal after spending the summer months outlining their party's agenda through mail-out fliers.



MARC JUNKER GRAPHIC

The election, scheduled ahead of the closely-watched November American presidential election, comes as Canada's economy stagnates amid the global economic slowdown, as records are broken for climate change-induced Canadian arctic icepack melting and as several more Canadian soldiers die in Afghanistan at the hands of the resurgent Taliban.

According to the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, the Conservatives made $19.2 billion in spending promises between June 2 and September 6. Some of the funds include an $80 million loan to Ford to re-open an engine manufacturing plant in Windsor, Ontario, and $4 billion to Quebec for infrastructure improvements.

Prime Minister Harper has also made several trips to the Canadian Arctic, announcing funding for new icebreakers and permanent military bases to bolster Canada's claim of territorial sovereignty over possible oil and gas deposits made accessible by melting icepack. The Conservative environmental plan aims to limit the intensity of carbon dioxide emissions from industrial polluters, while still allowing for overall emissions growth in the Alta. tar sands.

Canada's international role is another topic that is sure to be debated before the electorate in advance of the Oct. 14 vote. According to an Environics poll last week, and before the latest death of a Canadian soldier on the day the election was called, support for the military mission in Afghanistan was at its lowest point since its beginning in 2002. A nation-wide poll of more than 2,500 Canadians indicated that 41 per cent approve of the mission, while 56 per cent disapprove. Although the Conservatives and Liberals compromised in March to extend the mission until 2011, other crises around the world such as the ongoing genocide in Darfur and the Russia-Georgia conflict may prompt the parties to outline their visions for Canada's role in a troubled world.

After running their 2006 campaign on ethics and accountability in the wake of the Liberal sponsorship scandal, the Conservatives must contend with several of their own scandals that have emerged over their two and a half year-long minority government. The highly publicized leak of classified government documents to former Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier's organized crime-linked girlfriend lead to the Minister's resignation. The so-called "in-and-out" Conservative election campaign financing scheme is still being investigated by Elections Canada. Alleged bribes by Conservative party officials to deceased MP Chuck Cadman were still being investigated by parliament prior to Prime Minister Harper requesting the snap federal election.

The first week of the campaign produced plenty of controversy, as the Conservatives, Liberals and Greens all dumped candidates on account of alleged "embarrasing" backgrounds. Meanwhile, two days of public fury over the exclusion of Green Party leader Elizabeth May from the leaders' debates led to a reversal of the decision.

The Conservatives sustained the worst press coverage after they pulled an Internet ad depicting a puffin defecating on Liberal leader Stéphane Dion and suspended their communications director for suggesting criticism of the Prime Minister's Afghanistan policy. Despite the negative press, polls showed the Conservatives ended the week within reach of a majority government.

This week in Martlet history

September 17, 1976 — Students at SFU faced many disruptions to the start of their year when 77 workers from 17 different unions went on strike. Another 660 workers in four other unions honoured the picket lines, bringing the university's four cafeterias, student-operated University Centre, bus routes and some classes to a halt.

Stories from the Martlet archives

September 15, 1983 — The UVic Computer Science department, suffering from significant over-enrollment and underfunding, was forced to de-register students who got through Early Registration, but didn't have the marks. The astronomical demand for seats in the program conspired with a stagnant budget to leave hopefuls unable to take necessary pre and co-requisites.

September 16, 1993 — After extensive rallies, petitions and meetings, UVic students saved Mystic Vale. The 11-acre wood was purchased for $2.71 million, with UVic, the B.C. government and the District of Saanich contributing to cover the costs of protecting the area from developers. Mystic Vale was designated as a nature site to be used as a living laboratory by several university departments.

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EDITORIAL

Music snobs: lighten up

This campus is a hotbed of music snobbery.

It doesn't matter what the genre, what you listen to is never cool enough for the people around you.

If you're into hip hop, listening to mainstream music brands you as a poser. If rock is more your thing, the coolest of bands are the ones who are so new their album still has yet to make it off MySpace. If you're into alternative music, it's only cool until Zach Braff puts it in a movie soundtrack, then your new favourite song instantly becomes old news.

What if you like Eminem? Or Fergie? Or High School Musical? Or — heaven forbid — the Jonas Brothers?

At UVic, should you dare to show the slightest interest in anything that could possibly make a Top 40 chart (or in big names like the Backstreet Boys and the Spice Girls), you're immediately shot a look dirtier than the lyrics to Lil Wayne's "Lollipop."

Are the campus cool police over-reacting? We all have our guilty pleasures. Can't we just enjoy them in peace?

Canadian artists like Nickelback and Avril Lavigne are often hidden in the back of our CD collections and are sheepishly acknowledged if they happen to surface on our iTunes when someone else is listening. Nickelback has won nine Juno awards and Lavigne has seven.

Someone has to be listening. In fact, a lot of people are.

We should be proud of our favourite artists for their international success, not ashamed of them for committing the ultimate musical sin of becoming popular. So they're collecting a paycheque. So they're appearing on the front cover of magazines. Does that make their music any less enjoyable, or their talent any less apparent?

This summer, Western Canada got a taste of a great outdoor music festival as 125 artists took to four stages at the Pemberton Music Festival. Over 40,000 music fanatics flocked to the dusty farmers' fields north-east of Whistler, and the next few days were a drunken celebration of nearly every type of music under the sun.

The main stage was graced by top artists in every genre, from Nine Inch Nails to Coldplay, to Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, to the Flaming Lips, to N.E.R.D. On the last night, people who'd been watching indie band Vampire Weekend perform just hours before scrunched themselves into the massive crowd to watch Jay-Z, one of the world's most successful hip hop artists.

People who may have otherwise been ashamed to know every word to "99 problems" happily threw up their hands in the Roca-A-Fella sign and joined the crowd in singing along.

Why can't that happen here at UVic?

Why are Thursday nights at Red Jacket the only time the trendiest people of this fair city can come together to dance to Rhianna? Why is it acceptable to know all the words to "Spice up your life" when it comes on at Lucky Bar on a Monday night? Any other time, any other place, these acts are frowned upon by the coolest of the cool.

Besides, who designated music snobs as the "cool police" anyway? Where is it written as an immutable truth that Rhianna and the Backstreet Boys are untalented? Music taste is subjective, and if Rhianna rocks your socks then she's about as talented as it gets in your eyes. Until some objective ranking of musical talent is unleashed upon this world, what you consider cool is cool for you. Yes, even if it's the Backstreet Boys.

Before you make fun of someone when "Complicated" comes on during shuffle, don't forget about that Hilary Duff CD hidden behind your own collection of unknown indie albums. And while you're at it, make sure you reserve a space beside that Hilary Duff album to shove those pieces of obscure glory when they — gasp! — become popular too.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at our weekly editorial meeting at 12:30 p.m. every Friday in the Martlet office (SUB B011). Editorials are written by one or more staff members and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

DION ON CAMPUS:

JENNIFER ZHOU GRAPHIC

LETTERS

UVSS: answer the call

From the article "SUB workers threaten strike" in the Sept. 4 issue, "...Management, represented by the UVic Student Society board, had offered an increase of 10 cents for servers at Felicita's, and 30 cents for others..."

Either this is a printing error or we need a new board of directors. The UVSS board has no business representing SUB managers, who are not students and who did not elect them. The directors should represent all students, including the SUB workers currently on strike. The managers are simply employees of the UVSS board.

The directors also claim we can't afford to increase SUB workers' wages by $1.50 per hour without increasing students' fees — by just $3 per term — which requires a referendum.

However, a better solution is to reduce upper management salaries — the top manager earns $100,000 per year, far above workers' incomes. Better yet, drop the corporate model which led to this conflict, and run the SUB like the student service it's supposed to be. Managers should be promoted from among the student workers, and not paid more than twice what those workers earn.

If the workers don't get the raise they are requesting they will be forced to leave their jobs and the SUB will cease to exist as a "by-students, for students" institution. Giant chain stores will take over the building and turn it into just another mall. And prices will go up. Way up! UVic will begin to look like Langford — totally commercialized.

The SUB workers deserve a fair wage. I'm asking the UVSS board, which represents me, to act now to resolve the strike.

David J. A. Foster
UVic student

Strikers left cold

Regarding the SUB strike, the biggest hypocrisy of this whole ordeal is that we have a UVSS board campaigning hard to raise the minimum wage to $10 an hour while much of their staff still works for less than that amount.

Perhaps it's time for the UVSS to practice what they preach.

Kelsey Hannan
Community member

Pop fans plenty prevalent

Regarding the "Backstreet's back but why?" article in the last issue of the Martlet, I was 13 back in 1997 when I first listened to a Spice Girls' song and I was almost a fanatic fan in the '90s.

Some years later the group was over, but I still listened to their songs to have fun. Yes, they were silly. Yes, their clothes were terrible. Yes, some of their songs were not that good, but I really liked them.

The 2007/2008 tour, with all the five Spice Girls back together was great. Every fan knew that it wouldn't last long and that it would be the last tour ever, but it was good to have fun again with them, to sing old songs and to dance. What's the problem? People do this to rock bands as well. This is called being a fan.

Mariana Vicili
Community member

Backstreet does rule

The BSB would probably agree that they suck, except they haven't got time to dust off their CD's cuz they're too busy touring the world, earning millions so they can go back to one of their six homes and have a bath of liquid white gold.

Ali Barrett
Community member

Writers have rights too

Regarding "Copyright be damned says campus group" in last week's issue, activist Shannon Lucy used a laughable argument last week. She said, "What the publishing companies are doing is far more 'stealing' than providing the textbooks to students ... Education should be a right."

It is clear she requires an education.

Who does Lucy think she's hurting? If she were talking about Chapters, a behemoth that buries small businesses through draconian payment in returns, I might be inclined to agree. Unfortunately she is stealing from writers and small presses. None of them are rich.

I am especially appalled to see this stolen material in the hands of students from the Department of Writing. Ultimately, they are stealing from themselves.

The me-and-mine fetish of activists like Lucy has no internal logic because the rhetoric is rights-focused, with never a word on responsibilities. As that is the only language Lucy understands, let me talk about rights. As a writer, I have a right to be paid.

Garth Martens
UVic student

Awareness is green

Regarding the "Divided, freen efforts fall flat" article, I fully agree that some eastern countries have very little idea of the damage they're doing, but are (to some extent) trapped in their ways. In India, a wealthy family I stayed with didn't even know that India, like the rest of the world, is suffering from a water shortage. The automobiles used are so old and unsophisticated, the pollution is horrendous. A couple thousand people in BC don't compare to a couple billion in India and China.

Lareina Desiree
UVic student

Happy? Sad?
Enraged? Engaged?
Tell us: letters@martlet.ca
The Martlet has an open letters policy and will endeavour to print every letter received from the university community. Letters must be submitted by e-mail, include your real name and affiliation to UVic, and have "Letter to the editor" in the subject line. Letters must be under 200 words and may be edited.

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MELODRAMATIC MUSINGS

Learning to cook roadkill

Will Johnson

My friend Shane hit a rabbit with his car.

Out in Tsawwassen, not far from the ferry terminal, we were driving home after a late night poker game. A small shadow darted into the road, then quickly disappeared beneath the hood of his car. Shane hit the brakes, bringing his car to a jolting stop in the middle of the highway.

It was 2 a.m., and we sat in silence for a moment.

"Dude, I think I just hit something," said Shane.

I thought the mysterious little creature must have escaped. I hadn't felt any impact, there was no noise. One moment it was there, the next it was gone. I thought we should just keep going.

Shane, however, being an animal lover, decided that he had to know whether or not he'd been responsible for the death of an innocent.

He turned the car around and started heading in the opposite direction, his high beams on. After a couple moments, we saw a small fluttering object in the road.

Sure enough, there it was. A small, gray bunny still kicking its legs in vain. We climbed out of the car, and by the time we reached him he was lying still. It was bizarre to see this tiny rabbit, frozen in mid stride, its one unblinking eye staring accusingly up at us.

Beneath the bunny's mouth was a small smattering of red jelly blood, but otherwise it looked unscathed.

We looked at it for a long time, standing beside each other in the road. There was no traffic, and a gentle ocean breeze was the only soundtrack to this rabbit's final moments. Here, illuminated by the lights of Shane's car, was death sprawled out in front of me.

Finally, Shane had an idea. All summer he'd been working on an organic farm, and had been endeavoring to trap a pesky rabbit that had been destroying their produce. He'd become interested in the idea of hunting and cooking his own food, and thought this intruder would make a nice first dinner. However, all summer long he'd never been able to get his hands on it.

"I think I'm going to take this home and cook it," he told me, nudging the corpse with his finger.

I was revolted by the idea, and told Shane with a series of fake gagging and puking noises. Eating road kill, who does that?

But then he started to talk about it. People had done it for thousands of years. What made this any different? How is the wheel of a car any different than a bow and arrow, or a club? Its body was perfectly intact. Leaving it in the middle of the road seemed like a huge waste.

"This is food, Will. Perfectly good food. I'm going to eat it."

After a while, I became convinced that I'd seen Shane do weirder things. He went into his trunk and retrieved some paper towels and a plastic bag. Carefully, he rolled up the rabbit then laid it to rest in his trunk. Then he drove me home.

The event happened weeks ago, and when I returned to UVic for fall session, being surrounded by hundreds of bunnies made me me sad to think about their slain brother. I decided I was going to find out whatever happened to that rabbit.

As it turned out, Shane looked up some YouTube videos on skinning and cooking rabbits. Then he called his chef friend Ian, and convinced him to help with preparation. Shane went over to his house with red carrots, beets, potatoes, fresh rosemary, fennel, mint, an apple, some celery and two yellow plums—the perfect ingredients for rabbit stew.

But once Ian and Shane started to inspect the rabbit (which was then curled up in the fetal position), Ian felt the stomach. It was soft rather than hard.

Ian explained that Shane would have had to gut the rabbit right away after killing it. Enzymes in the organs keep working after death, and can eat away at the lining, then spew fluids into the body cavity, spoiling the meat. It was 15 hours after Shane had hit the rabbit, and there was a good chance this had happened.

Shane and Ian talked about how easy it is to take for granted getting meat from the grocery store, but how it's a totally different thing to think about killing and eating an animal. They agreed that they weren't sure if they could actually go through with it.

Finally, they decided it wasn't worth the health risk. Shane went into the backyard to bury his little companion. He grabbed a shovel and headed out into the field, but then saw a coyote in the distance, chasing its tail.

"I decided right away this was the perfect solution," Shane told me in an e-mail. "I was kind of bummed out that the rabbit died for no reason, but now I could give him to the coyote for a meal."

He left the rabbit there out in the open, happy that his friend had not died in vain.

Don't succumb to cell slavery

Katherine Walkiewicz

I don't have a cellphone. This summer, while moving homes, I was even without a landline for awhile.

I've learned many things from my pay phone sojourns, including discovering the disparate varieties in connection qualities.

Emerging back to the real world after heartfelt conversations on phones chosen for their proximity from prying ears, I can't understand how one could sit on the bus and chatter on with an audience.

Lacking a cellphone means compensating by spending time searching out pay phones, something that spells inconvenience and lost time for most people.

But this search can lead you to streets you've never been down before and places you may not have otherwise gone.

French philosopher Guy Debord came up with the notion of the dérive — to wander city streets aimlessly, compelled by the emotional push or pull of the physical geography.

In the same way, the journey to find a pay phone can provide a closer connection to the urban environment.

The availability and affordability of cellphones has created a culture of social over-connectedness. The convenience of having cellphones creates a compulsion to always be "in the loop."

Lacking one, however, creates a physical block to the stream of sharing mundane, truly useless details which most of the cellphone conversations I've ever overheard consist of. It leaves a person alone and disconnected, which in this time of cellphone hegemony, takes a certain strength.

Certainly, there are some people who have the restraint and maturity to use their cellphones moderately. But when it comes down to it, most people seem to have become completely dependent.

Even my parents sleep with their cellphones next to their pillows and flip out if they forget them when they leave the house.

I never want to be like that. My mother, however, has a much different attitude toward her apparent cellphone addiction.

"I think they're practical, but for emergencies only," she said, adding at the same time that they are both "annoying" and a "godsend."

My 17-year-old sister, who also remains cellphone-less by choice, is slightly more cynical.

"I'm effing glad I don't have a cellphone," she said to me, her voice lighting with contempt.

"Way to go and pay like $200 a month, losers, just to text your friends who are sitting beside you in class or who you'll see in 20 minutes anyway. It's pretty obvious to me that if you're not constantly staring at a tiny screen that's as big as two thumbs put together, you're going to notice and appreciate your surroundings."

My 15-year-old brother once teetered on the verge of tears after my father wouldn't buy him a cellphone. Now he has new sights.

"I want an iPhone," he said, but had trouble coming up with a reason why.

"Well, I'd like to have one," he restated, "but I just don't need one, you know?"

I know. Deep down, I think we all do.

MARC JUNKER GRAPHIC

Tribute to Terry Fox

Scott Garnet

Canada has produced more than its share of exceptional athletes.

Among these are, of course, our Paralympians in Beijing, including Chelsey Gotell, Diane Roy, Chantal Peticlerc and UVic's own Stephanie Dixon.

On Sunday, Sept. 14, many of us celebrated the remarkable achievement of another exceptional Canadian athlete named Terry Fox.

On April 12, 1980, Fox began the Marathon of Hope — a journey which would make his name a rallying call for courage and determination.

Over the next 143 days, Fox ran the equivalent of one marathon every day from St. John's, N.F. to Thunder Bay, Ont.

Unfortunately, Fox was forced to stop running outside of Thunder Bay when the cancer returned and spread to his lungs.

In response, Canadians everywhere rallied to Fox's side and, by the end of 1980, had raised $23.4 million, fulfilling Fox's dream of raising one dollar for every Canadian to be used for cancer research.

Today the Terry Fox Run is still held in Canadian cities and in countries throughout the world on the second Sunday in September.

Through his example, Terry Fox provided me with a role model when I was an adolescent who was struggling to come to terms with the reality of living with a physical disability.

Fox showed me that someone like me could achieve things most people wouldn't even dream of attempting.

In addition to raising millions of dollars for cancer research, Terry Fox provided an important source of inspiration to those living with these struggles.

Fox's selfless courage and determination serve as an example to both able-bodied and disabled individuals throughout the nation.

As Fox so eloquently put it, "dreams happen when people try."

Perhaps most importantly, Fox demonstrated that courage and perseverance make it possible for people living with disabilities to far exceed society's expectations.

Speaking from personal experience, I have tried to follow the example set by Terry Fox, who said: "nobody is ever going to call me a quitter."

I would like to congratulate our athletes in Beijing and every student who chose to participate in this year's Terry Fox Run.

May Terry's legacy never be forgotten.

Suzy the tiger teaches us all

Lynda Pupo

Suzy the tiger is famous.

She isn't a spokesperson for cereal or gasoline. She's simply a tiger that happens to be living in the Highlands – a district just northwest of Victoria.

Her story wavers depending on who you feel more sympathy for: the neighbours who live in fear that the tiger will escape; her owner, Dave Bennett, who spent approximately $15,000 creating a home for Suzy, or the Highlands Council who's trying to evict Suzy by a controversial bylaw.

But how should we feel about the tiger herself?

Currently, her beauty is a symbol of municipal politics, animal rights, land-owner rights and passing bylaws.

Her eyes hold a personal history full of conflict. Being a tiger bred by a film producer in Vancouver means that Suzy doesn't qualify to live at a zoo. She isn't a pure bred, but rather a mix of Siberian and Bengal. She lived near Lake Cowichan until problems arose, forcing her owner to sell her.

Bennett offered to provide Suzy with a stable existence (one better than a few competing offers to buy her for her pelt). Bennett even went about checking with the city bylaws to construct a proper enclosure, using extra support like deep cement walls so that Suzy couldn't dig her way out.

The future looked good for Suzy until the Highlands Council passed a debatable bylaw a few weeks ago, banning residents from keeping some exotic animals.

One example? Siberian and Bengal tigers.

In the middle of the drama, the Wild Animal Sanctuary in Keenesburg, Colorado, offered to take Suzy.

Despite concerns about the sanctuary voiced by Bennett and Suzy's previous owner, it holds several tigers on a much larger and more open property.

If her best interest was the issue, it would make sense that she would move. Unfortunately, the cost of moving a large tiger like Suzy is not cheap (especially for a man who just spent $15,000 towards building her a house).

Enter, a hero: Ron Cheeke, owner of the Loghouse Pub on Millstream Road. Cheeke offered to pay for the expensive trip. Still, Bennett declined, confident he can fight the bylaw and win; for Suzy's sake — right?

What the future holds for Suzy is unpredictable.

Whether she stays or goes, animals like her are unpredictable by nature and therefore create an unpredictable environment. Her beauty will be used again and again to get a message across from all parties.

In the end, Suzy will remain a solitary symbol for what a single person, a community and a municipality can do when forced to focus: it took something as exotic as a tiger to bring out fast-acting passion.

Imagine what we could do if we worked this way on the issues that tend to fall behind the label of "glamorous."

Imagine if we thought everyday people were as important as a tiger.

WAR OF WORDS

Should war resisters be deported?

Gemma Karstens-Smith and Cody Willett

An estimated 200 Iraq War resisters and their families are currently living in Canada.

These men and women, for whatever reason, decided they would not fight in Iraq. During a pan-Canadian Day of Action on Sept. 13, many Canadians protested the Harper government's policy of deporting war resisters.

Whether or not the Canadian government should let them stay is a contentious issue. Gemma Karstens-Smith (GKS) and Cody Willett (CW) take on the debate.

GKS: Americans who are opposed to the war in Iraq for moral or political reasons are being forced to fight for ideals they don't believe in. There are even people who had no intention of entering combat who have been posted overseas, like resister Corey Glass, a former sergeant in the National Guard who now lives in Toronto.

The war in Iraq was not sanctioned by the United Nations and is not supported by the majority of the international community, including the Canadian government. Why is our government deporting those who are actually just agreeing with our own foreign policy?

CW: In fleeing the consequences of their brave stand, Iraq War resisters in Canada undermine the impact of their actions. If Canada really supports their cause, we wouldn't let them hide that bravery here.

Backing them up with media support through aggressive diplomatic pressure on the U.S. to stop jailing resisters, Canada's government can help resisters face a court martial that will highlight the fact that the U.S. jails its people for refusing to fight in a war most Americans oppose. What a better way for resisters to make their point?

GKS: The U.S. government doesn't care about diplomatic pressure.

They aren't trying to hide the fact that they will jail resisters who refuse to fight.

Robin Long, a resister who was deported back to the U.S. on July 15, was sentenced to 15 months in a military prison.

Long was the first resister deported back to the U.S. since the Vietnam War and was handed one of the stiffest sentences ever given for his "crime."

The Canadian government helping resisters face a court martial would be completely ineffective. The only result would be more resisters in military prisons.

CW: Resisters are easily branded as cowards in the U.S. as long as they run from the consequences of "taking a stand."

Canada's asylum for Vietnam resisters didn't put pressure on the American public to demand that those willing to fight for their nation in all but illegal war not be handed outrageous jail sentences by the U.S. Army. The furor over what happens to resisters is most useful in creating civil debate in the U.S., not in Canada.

We can be proud to harbour draft dodgers, but we must encourage voluntary soldiers to confront their government rather than to hide.

GKS: We really need to ask ourselves, though, why is the Canadian Government deporting resisters?

There is virtually no precedent for it. We didn't send them back during the Vietnam War. In fact, Trudeau said that draft dodgers had his "complete sympathy," and that "Canada should be a refuge from militarism."

When it comes to resisters from the Iraq War, Canadians don't want their government to continue shoving them out of the country; an Angus Reid poll from June showed that 64 per cent of Canadians are in favor of granting resisters permanent residence.

Also, in June the House of Commons voted to accept a non-binding motion that resisters be allowed to apply for permanent residence status and that all acts of deportation should be discontinued.

So what changed?

CW: What changed is that there's no draft in America today.

Trudeau was right to declare Canada a refuge for those forced into war. Today, those who voluntarily join the army understand they've signed up to fight for their country. Resisters reneged on that commitment. There's an important distinction here.

Canadians may feel bad about sending them back, but we're setting a precedent for fugitives to come to Canada after breaking laws to which they conscientiously object.

What we should be asking is why the Canadian government does nothing to help stop the war these resisters are trying to escape perpetuating.

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Victoria's second best, says Maclean's magazine

Marri Knadle

Victoria is the second smartest city in Canada, says Maclean's magazine.

In their Sept. 8 issue, Maclean's covered a study published recently by the Canadian Council on Learning. Designed as part of the Composite Learning Index project, it aimed to assess Canada's overall lifelonglearning standards.

The CCL ranked approximately 4,700 communities, assigning them a rank and judging their "smarts."

Maclean's framed the Composite Learning Index project more as a handy list to brandish at cocktail parties than as respectable assessment designed to determine areas of national achievement and shortfall.

They took the raw data from the CLI, highlighted some interesting discoveries and outlined the implications of collective intelligence — but not without a bit of lively facetiousness.

On the magazine's cover, Maclean's presents some humorous personifications of choice Canadian cities. Mr. Vancouver is a long-haired, bearded young man in a tie-dye shirt, jeans and sandals right out of Woodstock. He smiles giddily, unaware of the surprising news hovering by his head: "Vancouver: not nearly as smart as Victoria."

And then there's poor Saguenay, a stout man in plaid carrying an armload of firewood, who is apparently "not smart at all, but happy."

You wouldn't know it from looking at him (or even from reading the feature story itself), but judging by the firewood in his arms, at least he'll be toasty.

And what about Victoria? Victoria tied with Ottawa for the title of Canada's "smartest" city, though on the chart we're listed as #2, since Ottawa's museums and "awareness of diversity" are higher.

Surprised? Proud? Look around you. These are the smartest people in the country, Maclean's suggests.

But what does it mean, exactly, to be the "smartest" city? What counts as "smarts," and how do we measure them?

According to the Canadian Council on Learning, our city has high marks in the "four pillars" of learning, the first of which is "Learning to Know," which focuses on formal education opportunities and looks at academic performance exams. (Specifically, the mean scores of 15-year-old students on exams of various subjects — a somewhat limited criterion.)

A lot of the report's determining factors rest on the presence and availability of civic structures like universities and museums, and while it takes the utilization of these establishments into account, it regrettably cannot truly rank "smartness" — a misinterpretation which Maclean's headline reinforces.

Who's to say that poor Saguenay chap wouldn't have made a fantastic physics professor if only he weren't stuck gathering wood all day? The data comes down to city offerings and opportunity more than collective enlightenment.

Similarly, the report's subtext reveals an economic thumbprint. Household expenditure on education and the arts plays an important role in the rankings, and while this certainly reflects a collective sense of education and patronage to a degree, it also fundamentally highlights disposable income and broader economic trends.

(As anyone who's been on a fifth-grade field trip knows, you don't have to be smart or appreciative at all to enter a museum.)

As the CCL and Maclean's acknowledged, capital cities simply do better in the ranking because of an influx of capital and project funding. Demographics are conspicuously absent from the overall analysis. The ranking evaluates Canada's communities across the board with the unspoken presumption that every city is equipped with a populace that wishes, needs, or is even in a position to be educated.

While a country made up of of well-rounded mental elites of all walks of life and ages is certainly appealing, with about 56 per cent of our population over the age of 35, it's understandable that many cities will earn low rankings simply due to a lack of impetus to provide certain forms of education, rather than any absence of intelligence as the misleading "smarts" ranking suggests. (Saguenay, don't despair!) The CLI had to rely on voluntarily provided information rather than a mandatory census to compile its data.

The methods behind the rankings may deflate enthusiastic bragging, but ultimately any study like this cannot be irrefutably accurate and all-encompassing. Victoria was in the top-10 most-improved cities since the study's inception in 2006, so take heart that our city as its own entity is improving, offering greater opportunities to its citizens, no matter their brainpower.

According to the CLI, Victoria is "officially a place to learn and grow." Canada overall is doing better than ever in achieving its education goals — and that's something worth a smile as broad as Mr. Vancouver's.

The pound is the best adoption option

Rebecca Tucker

Only several months prior to my arrival at UVic, I was watching TV when I received the shock of my life.

I found myself staring at the screen like a person passing a tragic car accident: horrified, nearly sick and completely glued to what I was watching. The show featured puppy mills.

I had heard of puppy mills before (large-scale dog breeding facilities that churn out vast quantities of purebred dogs), and had always been against the idea, but when I saw real-life footage of these operations I could not believe my eyes.

Three or four dogs were crammed into tiny cages, and had no choice but to step over often-empty food and water dishes, and their own excrement.

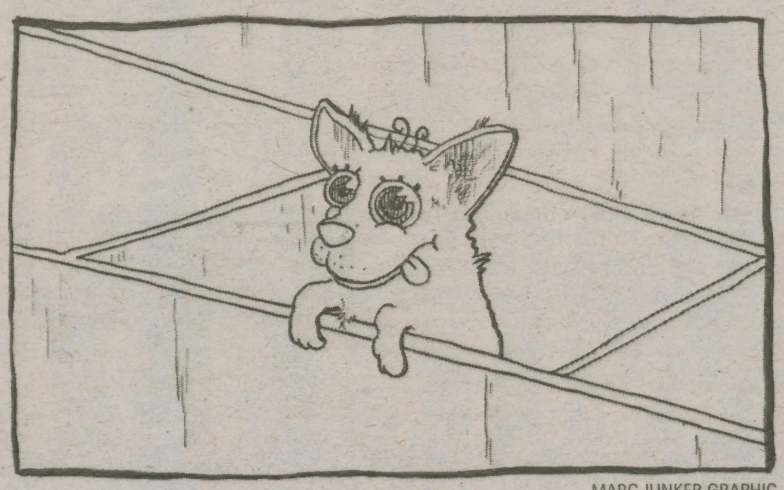
Their fur was matted; their feet were swollen and bleeding because they were never let out of their cages.

Female dogs were bloated because they were bred every time they came into heat. Male dogs that were not sent to the pet stores were euthanized (a vast quantity of males being of less necessity to the operation).

Although the puppies at pet stores look soft and happy, many unsuspecting buyers are not aware of the terrible start their new pets had or that upon the purchase of their new dog, they have actually promoted these conditions.

At the end of the horrific show, all I could wish was that all of these mistreated animals would be sent to safe, loving homes, and that these "mills" would be abolished.

But that decision isn't up to me, or up to one person alone. It's unbelievable that these businesses have been allowed to run at all, let alone since before the '60s.



MARC JUNKER GRAPHIC

Many people have their hearts set on a purebred dog, but don't realize that it's entirely possible to adopt one. Adoption doesn't cost money. If a person adopts a dog, they only have to pay for the spaying or neutering of their pet, which costs around a hundred dollars — a charge any non-breeder would have to pay anyway. Compare this with the prices of purebred dogs from puppy mills (which can range into the thousands), and the answer becomes clear.

If a person has his or her heart set on a purebred dog, then it's that person's right to contact a responsible breeder.

However, mixed-breed and adoption dogs have been proven to live longer and healthier lives because they have more promising beginnings than those generated from puppy mills.

Rescuing animals is the first step we can take as a society toward the elimination of inhumane situations for mass-produced puppies.

Spaying or neutering our pets is the second step, as this will greatly decrease the numbers of unwanted strays.

Pet store animals offered for adoption deserve loving homes just as much as rescue dogs.

Their lives, through no fault of their own, began at puppy mills.

Without being part of the process, however, it's impossible to simply imagine how inhumane these establishments are.

It's our responsibility to stop cruel treatment towards our four-legged friends who aren't able to speak for themselves.

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PROVIDED PHOTO

My other tuk tuk is a convertible

Penny Beames

There we stood, my sister and I, laughing outside a Delhi nightclub. We'd spent the night dancing with a few friends (some Germans, a few Americans, Indians, and a French woman) but a day of shopping in hot, sticky markets had gotten the better of us and we'd decided to pack it in early. The rhythmic thump of surprisingly good house music was still pounding through the third-storey window above us. Cameras were undoubtedly still clicking away, taking photos for the next day's nightlife section in the newspaper. Patrons were still paying extortion prices for drinks.

But we were done, choosing to quickly exit while the going was good and our wallets still contained a rupee or two.

The trouble was we had no way home.

Karan, the taxi driver who had dropped us off hours before, had promised to come as soon as we called. He had been affable, joking with us and giving us the now unnecessary geography lesson normally bestowed upon the city's "ferringhis," or white folks.

But Karan was nowhere to be found. His phone went unanswered, text messages ignored.

Truthfully, to say we had no way home is misleading. We had a way home. In fact, we had several. It's just that we'd been warned against taking autorickshaws this late at night and had come to rely on taxis for transportation.

Autorickshaws, or tuk tuks, are ubiquitous in Delhi. Their green bodies and yellow canvas roofs zip around the city carrying passengers from one end to the other for roughly the price of one Victoria bus ride. Many of them are decorated with pictures of Hindu or Sikh gods, or their inside walls have been papered over with laminated cutouts of Bollywood stars. They ride so low that they often flood and stall in monsoon rains.

Tonight, we were surrounded by them. My sister and I were an island of white-girl in a sea of green and yellow.

Unsure of what to do next, we'd struck up a conversation with some of the drivers. We felt a measure of safety in the fact that there were two of us, but we were still careful not to come across as too friendly or entirely naïve. A few words in Hindi convinced them that, while foreign, we weren't quite tourists, and they crowded around to offer us late-night tips on grammar and pronunciation. I was trying to bargain for a fare with one driver when our chariot pulled up: a brand-new, shining, convertible tuk tuk.

The driver honked once from around the corner and pulled up into the fray. He was toothy and short and obviously proud of his flashy ride (a new autorickshaw costs up to $3,000 CDN and his purchase was no small feat).

After saying our goodbyes to the other envious drivers, we hopped in and put our sore feet on the low metal divider behind the driver's seat. Before long we were whipping down Delhi's major streets toward home.

It was the quietest time of the night. The wind tossed our hair around as we flew past bank towers and people sleeping on sidewalks, past India Gate and the Parliament Buildings. People on motorcycles honked as they passed us, and at one point a woman of roughly 40 leaned out her passenger side window and offered to take a picture of us while we drove. We made cracks about the vehicle's "natural air conditioning."

Some friends who must have left the club right after we did cruised up behind us and honked, and we raced our buddies until our two competing autorickshaws had to split off to head for different parts of town.

India doesn't always feel this free. Navigating the paths between India's abject poverty and soul-eroding wealth can be frustrating and oppressive.

But riding in the back of that auto was like flying. At one point, my sister turned to me and yelled over the thrum of the healthy new engine, "I wish India could always be like this."

I know it can't, and it likely shouldn't, but it's moments like this that bring me back here, that keep me travelling.

We arrived home tired, windswept, and happy. I handed the driver his fare and a sizable tip, and the three of us exchanged equally toothy grins.

It could be that his roof was in the shop or hadn't been installed yet, and that his night in a convertible was a one-time gig. But the next time I'm downtown on a sunny day I'll keep my eye out for him and his tidy new auto.

If it's not too much work, I'll ask him to put the top down again.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Tuk tuks are a cheap and widely available mode of transportation in Delhi, but using them requires caution.

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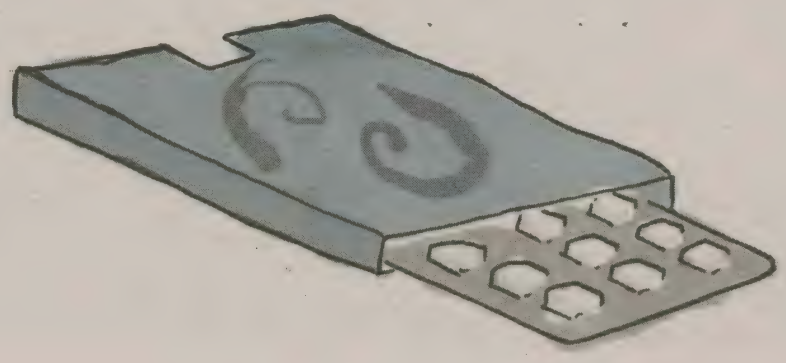


First Year Survival Guide

A Reference for the Rest of Us

Story by Bryce Bladon
Illustrations by Marc Junker

Whether it's your first or fourth year of university, there are exciting new social blunders to be committed, enlightening classes you'll skip in favour of five more minutes in bed, and such fine dining that you'll find it on the menu every day of the school year.

But university is not all social faux pas and pork chops; with help you can make it through this year of university unscathed — almost. Just hold this guide tight to your chest, breathe in, close your eyes and envision yourself at the end of the year.

Now stop it. You look stupid. First lesson: don't close your eyes and breathe heavily. People will think you're crazy.

The social scene

Whether you're living on or off campus, university life lends itself to meeting new faces; some cute, some face-meltingly hot. Here are a few tips to help you keep your cool, whether attempting to make an acquaintance, or trying to avoid the stutter that arises when a crush stops to speak to you. Before anything, remember: all of these social tips are useless unless you put yourself out there. Go to classes, Vikes games, resident events and parties — it's half the fun of university.

Ice breakers

When meeting anyone, look them in the eyes and smile. First impressions are everything, and chances are good the person will remember you as confident and happy.

Second-year UVic student Clay Murphy suggests always carrying gum to any social event or class.

"I don't even chew gum," Murphy says, "it's just a great way to get to know someone."

A pack of the chewy stuff provides an "in" with almost any character, and can open the conversation to such fruitful topics as favourite gum flavours, brands and, if you're feeling saucy, packaging.

When going out to a party or around town, carry a lighter. Having a light is a great way to be a hero to smokers, and the practice of shisha is a hit with college students. Just don't set off any fire alarms.

Deal makers

Carry your cellphone with you at all times. If you meet and make friendly with someone in passing, nothing is worse than losing his or her number.

Remembering a face might be easy, but a name isn't always so simple. In order to avoid looking like you have early onset Alzheimers, there are a few tricks. If you forget someone's name, ask them to enter themselves into your phone.

For bonus points, take a quick picture of them and attach it to the contact, thus ensuring a quick compendium of all your newfound acquaintances. Having six different Katies can be a case of social Russian roulette.

When you do make that first call, be sure you do it within an appropriate time period (between 24 and 72 hours of meeting the person) and give them a reason to remember your face.

Invite them to an event with mutual friends if you want the relationship to flourish.

"This guy I know constantly bombards me with texts until I respond," remarks second-year student Kara Johancsik. "It's a real turn-off." That said, a well constructed text focusing on a middle ground may blossom into something more than phone tag.

Deal breakers

The first few months of school are a whirlwind of experimentation, socially and physically. For this reason, try to avoid any serious commitments within the first month of school.

"[If] you came single, be careful who you hook up with in the first few weeks," warns UVic counsellor Dave O'Brien. "A too-intense fling could damage your first semester."

That said, if someone you wanted a relationship with in September hasn't changed by November, then go for it.

On the topic of experimenting, avoid dormcest. Don't fool around with someone and then their neighbour. It can lead to more drama than you bargained for. But, if you fool around with someone and their neighbour at the same time, high fives all around.

Don't be a fool, wrap that tool

"Some sexually transmitted diseases can be transmitted without any signs or symptoms," says Sara Wegwitz, a nurse at UVic's Jack Petersen Health Centre.

Even if you or your partner are using birth control, don't leave things to chance. Condoms may be purchased at the Health Center at four for $1.

How to pass the class

Attending class is the catch 22 of university life. There are some people who can go almost an entire semester without attending more than a handful of classes. You are not one of those people.

When to attend

Attend classes that go toward a prerequisite for your major or degree. The classes that you need a better-than-passing grade should be priorities for you.

It's a good idea to attend classes where "participation" affects a large portion of your grade. Pay attention to that course outline. Test days, as well as the day before, are important days.

When you miss a class

Review what the attendance requirements are for each class. Missing as few as four classes may be enough to merit you an N/A at the end of term, depending on your program, regardless of your actual grade.

Philosophy professor James Young gives out ten pop quizzes throughout the year, and a minimum of seven must be completed to pass his course. Heed such pitfalls.

In any class, have a liaison. Ask someone from your class what you missed, and e-mail or talk to your professor as soon as possible — it's the best way to catch up and avoid missing anything critical. Suck up the embarrassment; most professors are more than willing to lend a helping hand to even the most hopeless delinquent.

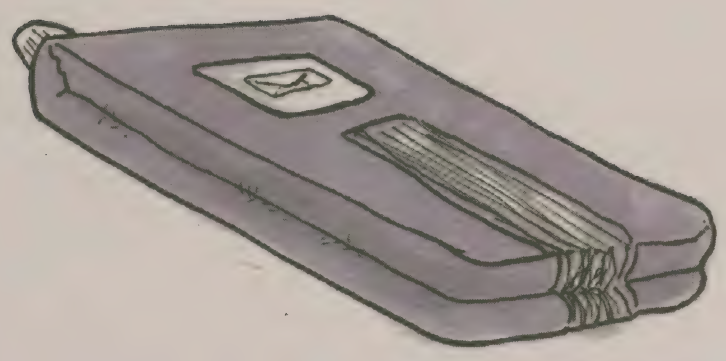
Pass with finesse

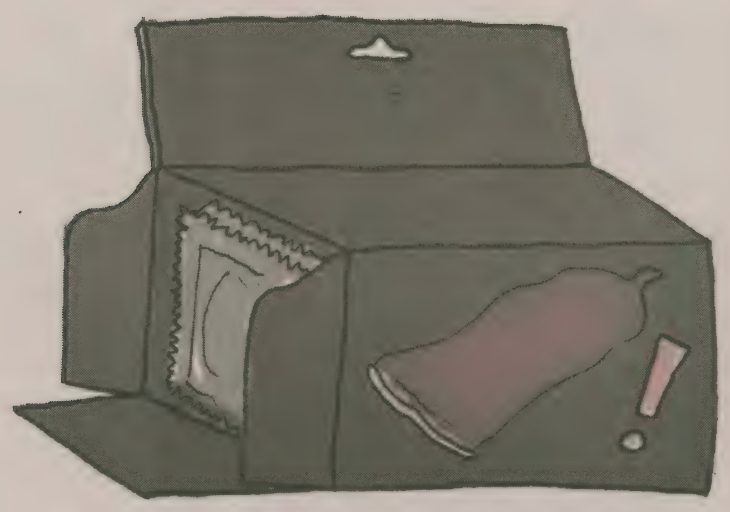
Meet deadlines. University is an excellent time to start new habits.

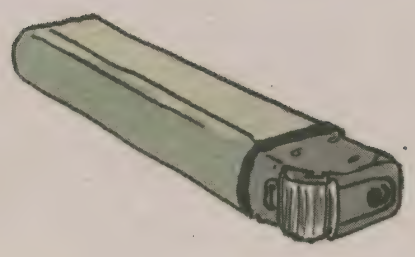
"Don't change the patterns that work," suggests UVic student counsellor Grace Wong Sneddon, "[but] the things that you want to do ... do realistically."

Break bad habits in favour of new ones. There can be substantial penalties for late assignments, to the extent of not receiving a grade. If you have a valid reason for missing a deadline (or a well thought-out excuse) speak to your professor about an extension before the assignment is due.

When you manage to tear yourself away from the TV or Facebook, make sure you







put time into the assignments that matter. An assignment worth five per cent of your grade does not merit as much time as an essay worth 25 per cent.

It's guaranteed that anyone who eats in the cafeteria will become sick of the food in a matter of months. As part of UVic's food program, students may have a number of points allotted for food from specific food outlets. Be sure to use them accordingly.

Maintaining your meal card

Try to use your food card, not cash, for meals. Going out for the occasional bite at a restaurant is a great change of pace, but it gets expensive quickly. If you do have a food card, it is accepted at the following locations:

- Residence Dining Room
- Village Greens
- Cap's Bistro
- Center Caf'
- Village Market
- Sweet Greens
- Bibliocafe
- Fraser Snack Bar
- Nibbles and Bytes Bar
- Mac's Bistro

Meal cards are made of a weak type of plastic that enjoys shattering if you look at it the wrong way.

In order to avoid having to pay for a new card and to ensure that you have it on you at all times, buy a plastic card sleeve, or add a few layers of duct tape three to four centimetres from the top of the card and punch a hole through the corner. Besides ensuring your meal card doesn't break, you can now attach it to your keys. Just make sure the card stripe stays swipeable.

Eat smarter, not harder

After receiving your receipt, pay attention to the balance on your food card. There are helpful signs behind the cashiers in the Residence Dining Room that show how many points you should have on your card each day. If you're under that number, evaluate what you're purchasing and what you don't need. Desserts, sushi, pizza and anything for a group (such as nachos) can drain a food card in no time.

When deciding on a meal plan, consider bumping up to a medium or hearty meal plan. The advantage is that any unused points remaining at the end of the year will be refunded so long as they are worth more than $10. Starter plans don't have this feature.

Break your belly, not your wallet

When getting food, make sure you pay the points price. Between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., the Residence Dining Room, Village Greens and Cap's Bistro all offer points price. All other locations and times charge cash price to your food card, and it adds up quickly.

Go to a nearby supermarket or Village Market and stock up on cereals, sandwich necessities and other simple meal ingredients. Even in the homeliest of dorm rooms, it's easy enough to construct a sandwich when you get a midnight craving. As well, eating a meal in your room instead of the cafeteria manages to save you money in the long run. If you do run out of food points, recharge your card at the housing office or any food outlet that supports points.

Enjoying yourself

Booze and burgers add up, and the freshman-15 is a constant threat to your waistline and confidence. Besides ensuring your physical health, this section addresses your mental health with answers to questions you didn't even know you had.

Stay fit

The best way to stay fit is to eat well. To avoid those pounds, avoid the grill and any hearty snacks before bed. Anything greasy or deep fried is bad news for your body, and late night meals won't be properly digested.

"Have a light snack if you're absolutely starving," Wegwitz suggests. "It's better to eat something than to starve."

A surprising number of people are chronically dehydrated — often the result of too many carbonated beverages and too little water. When you drink something, try to avoid soft drinks in favour of water or juice. Besides being better for you, you'll save a fair bit of cash. Not sure how to tell if you're getting enough fluids?

"You're urine should always be a pale yellow," says Wegwitz. "If it's a dark amber colour, you're not drinking enough fluids."

Enlist moderation

The most common mistake new students make is throwing themselves headfirst into university life. Trying to maintain too many friendships, sleeping with too many people, or making too many commitments can lead to anxiety, rocky relationships and, possibly, bad grades. Quality is always more important than quantity.

"Facebook tells us we need to have 300 friends," says Wong Sneddon, "[but] great friends take a lot of time to make."

Don't be afraid to slow down. It's better not to make a poorly thought out decision because you feel rushed. Everyone remembers the Hindenburg, but few remember it fondly. If there is a problem, face up to it as soon as possible. Figure out what you need to do and do it.

"When you get anxious, clear your head and think it through," suggests Wong Sneddon. "With anxiety, you overthink, and that's the problem."

Have fun

Sometimes, taking a night off of drinking can be just as fun as passing out in the hallway. When the drinking does go down, have a glass of something in your hand so you can participate on group fun. Most people won't even notice you're not drinking alcohol.

"There are stats that ... the majority of university students and students in [residence] aren't into the party scene and binge drinking," notes Wegwitz. She suggests that if you do drink, have a meal, drink plenty of water, avoid drinking games and make sure you and your friends look out for one another.

When the room goes dark and the strobe light cranks up, the room can become a slow-motion play-by-play of your poor dancing skills. There are plenty of simple gestures that are akin to shuffling your feet, but to have the most fun, simply do what feels right on the dance floor.

You can also add dance flair to everyday activities, such as packing or ping pong. If you appear confident in whatever you're doing, most people won't know the difference.

Laugh

The best thing for your health, physically and mentally, is to make sure you laugh. Counsellors, nurses and students all agree that it will play out as a huge factor in your well-being. Laugh with those who are laughing at you, and everyone will have a good time. And do the robot. Everyone loves the robot.

JENNIFER ZHOU GRAPHICT

How to give when you have to count the cost

Jennifer Gate

Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give."

When "giving" is narrowly defined as donating money, rather than volunteering time, or giving blood or other products, it appears that many UVic students may not be making a life at all.

A survey taken of 18 students sitting outside the MacLaurin and Cornett buildings on campus revealed that 15 of them do not make monetary donations to charity. The most common reasons: they cannot afford to donate, they have concerns about how well charities actually use the money they receive, and they do not know what to donate to.

While it can be hard to bust through the first concern, for students wanting to make their own mark in philanthropy the key is research.

Start by choosing a sector of interest, said Michelle McKenzie, director of Donor Services with the Victoria Foundation.

Those wanting to donate to local charities can consult Victoria Vital Signs (victoriavitalsigns.bc.ca), an annual publication that identifies the health of 11 sectors in Victoria. Local charities can help address some of the identified needs within the sectors.

Two websites can help identify charities in a sector or particular area.

The Canada Revenue Agency actually registers Canadian-based charities (and lists their financial information) which can be searched by both city and sector at: cra-arc.gc.ca/charities. Visit this site to check that a charity is registered before contributing.

Students can also search by sector or area on CanadaHelps.org, which gives the mission statement, description of services, contact information and web address for each charity. You can donate online or set up a "giving page" for a specific charity and invite friends. But be sure you know where you're sending your money.

"People should learn as much about the charity as they can," said McKenzie. "They should pick up the phone, ask what the charity does, make a site visit and ask questions."

Questions regarding the number of people served, the amount of face-to-face contact with those people and the difference the services make to their lives, are useful, as well as asking about how the money the charity receives is divided between infrastructure costs and services to clients.

"Everyone is different in the way they feel about charity and high overheads." said McKenzie. "They should ask themselves, 'Do I want to support an organization with a great infrastructure or one that is more grassroots?'"

Many charities are now forming long-term relationships with donors by advocating monthly donations instead of one-off responses to giving campaigns. The certainty of a regular monthly income simplifies planning for the organisation, while regular updates from the organisation give the donors a greater understanding of how they are helping. Students may find that giving $5 a month over the course of a year is more feasible that a lump sum of $60.

Forming a donor group with family or friends can increase the number of charities each person can contribute to while sharing the research; it's also an enlightening bonding activity. Members could contribute equally, or each could commit to the amount that they can personally afford.

Another fun activity is to ask friends to save their pennies for a few months, then hold a penny-rolling party. People could come having already researched charities, or the host could do the research and everyone could vote on where the money will go. Coin wrappers can often be obtained for free from a bank.

Other strategies for giving to charity include participating in sponsored events and getting people to back you, or asking people to donate to a charity in your name in lieu of a birthday present.

Several websites partner with non-profit organizations to provide aid to people in need around the world.

Clicking a button on these sites allows the owners to generate funds for their charitable partners from sponsors who advertise on the site.

The Greater Good Organization has six such sites covering hunger, child health, literacy, breast cancer, rainforest preservation and animal rescue, which can all be accessed via TheHungerSite.com. A similar site is CharityClickDonation.com.

FreeRice.com is a vocabulary builder that provides 20 grains of rice to the United Nations World Food Program for each correct word definition a player chooses. There are approximately 50 grains in a gram of rice and the site donates about 120 million grains (2,500 kilograms) of rice a day.

It may seem complicated at first, but with only a little research you can leave one charitable mark.

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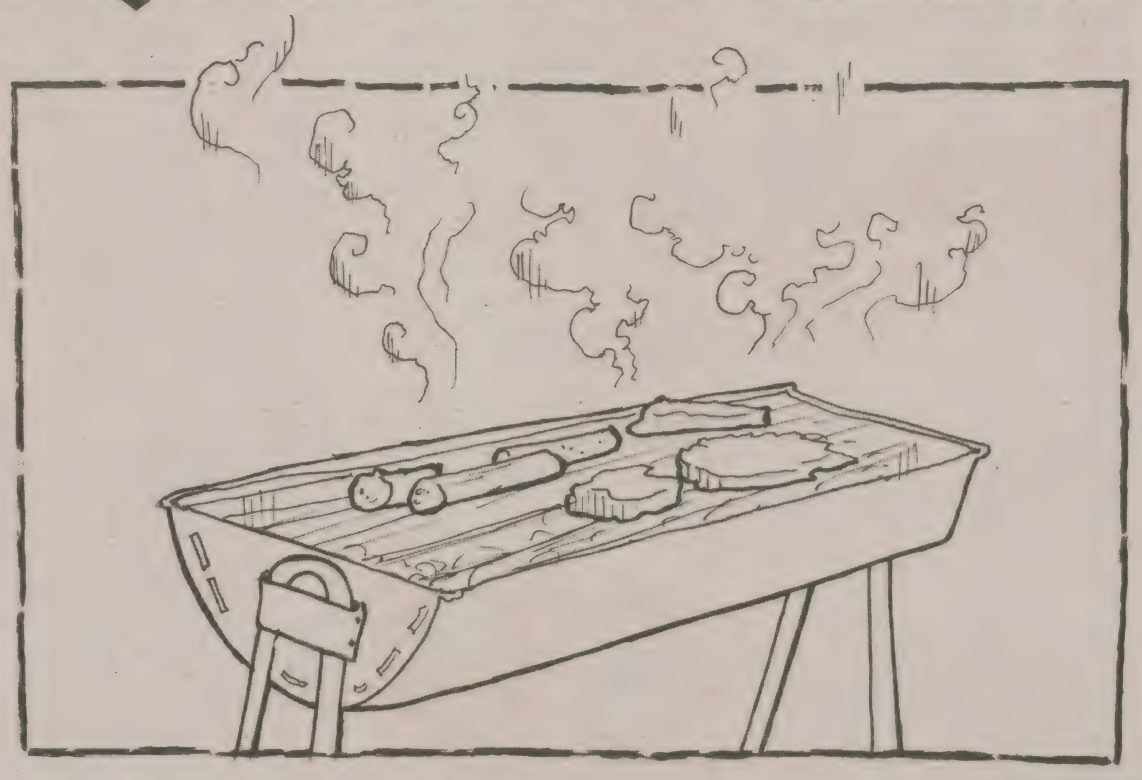


MARC JUNKER GRAPHIC

September 24 is National Braai Day.

A proper braai party needs five main ingredients: beer, friends, a good open-pit grill (preferably wood, but charcoal is fine too — not gas), braaivleis and pap. Good weather is nice too, but tragically beyond the host's control. To be truly authentic, the beer should be a refreshing lager, preferably Castle, Blacklabel or Lion, but anything will do in a pinch.

The Afrikaan word "braai" (rhyming with "pie") is synonymous with barbecue, and is used as a noun for the grill, or a verb for the partying itself.

National Braai Day coincides closely with the Autumnal Equinox and South African Heritage Day. What better time to have one last summer bash, no matter your country or heritage?

The first three ingredients are self-explanatory. Braaivleis, on the other hand, require a bit of explanation. These "grilled meats" are the centrepieces of the braai. While familiar staples like kebabs, ribs and even fish and shellfish can fit the bill as braaivleis, traditionally South African boerewors are what make a braai more than just another barbecue.

Boerewors, meaning "farmer's sausage," are generally made of beef (sometimes with other meats added) and a mixture of spices. The exact meats and spices used (and their proportions) vary from chef to chef, so you may wind up with radically different boerewors at any one potluck-style braai, if you're so lucky. You can easily find all kinds of boerewors recipes on the Internet, both traditional and novel.

Traditional pap is a porridge of cornmeal, but you can experiment with the dish's consistency and add other ingredients to create an array of variations. Phutu pap, a crumbly rendering of the porridge, is great served as a side-dish with chakalaka, a spicy, salsa-like relish. Pap can also be fried or served soft with milk and sugar for breakfast (if you have any left over). Mango chutney, beef stock gravy and cabbage relish are other traditional condiments to have on hand at a braai to go with the pap, the boerewors or even vetkoek.

Vetkoek, is good with mustard and filled with mince. But for a dessert, the sweet, deep-fried dough can be slathered in sugar and jam, or honey, or whatever else sweet or savoury strikes your fancy. Nutella vetkoek, anyone?

Although a braai is closely associated with boerewors and beer, like any other meal-centered gathering, kids and vegetarians can easily be accommodated with a little creativity. Ceres fruit juices, made in South Africa, are a good option that sticks close to the line of authenticity. The more adventuresome can make umquombhoti, a corn-based beer low in alcohol content.

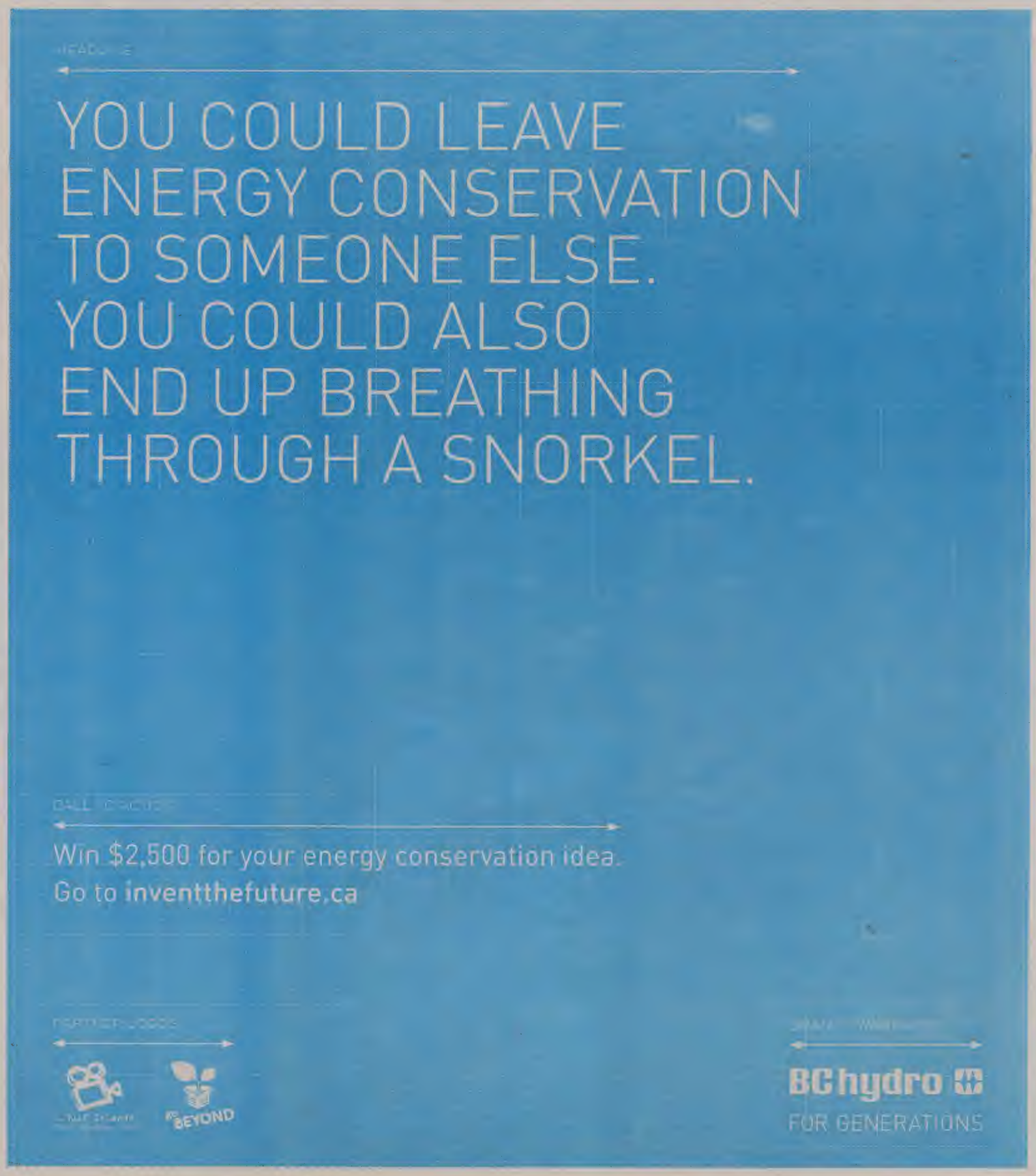
If all the meat and beer hasn't sent your party napping, wrap things up in modern South African style with a game of rugby, soccer or cricket. Bonus points if you include snacking on biltong, a jerky-like staple that differs from North American jerky in that it's made with thicker strips of meat and preserved with vinegar before drying. It's available either moist, dry or somewhere in-between.

It's up to you to take the braai as far as you want, whether that means some sausages on the grill, some pap on the side and some Race Rocks to wash it all down in time-crunched and budget-attentive UVic student variation, or the full-on smorgasbord of braaivleis and side-dishes.

Enlist friends for a potluck-style bring-and-braai, and reap the benefits of many helping hands.

However you choose to braai, as you toast your final farewell to summer, don't forget to thank the Mzansi Braai Institute of South Africa for creating National Braai Day in 2005.

And ladies, feel free to sit back and relax and let the men do the grilling. It's tradition.



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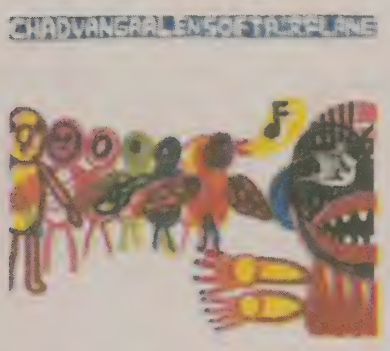
CD REVIEWS

Quirky beats are a rare gem among empty lyrics



Chad VanGaalen
Soft Airplane
FLEMISH EYE

When I used to come across the term "one-man band," I would generally cringe and try and block out images of a harmonica-wielding, tambourine-shaking, plastic-grinning man busking for money on Granville Island or Eau Claire Market. Then along came Chad VanGaalen and his eclectic 2004 album Infiniheart, tearing my bias to shreds.

A self-proclaimed one-man band, VanGaalen records the majority of his material in the basement of his house in Calgary. Since his arrival on the music scene four years ago, VanGaalen has been a beloved fixture to musically-inclined Canadians lucky enough to have seen him on stage.

Soft Airplane, released early this month, will satisfy those already drawn to VanGaalen and his quirky beats, experimental sounds and general wizardry. Its lyrical and melodic genius will make a little nest in the hearts of all of you who haven't discovered him yet. VanGaalen's usual mix of traditional guitar strumming and not-so-traditional homemade instruments is hugely present in this album, creating an almost perfect mix of the conventional and the fantastic.

VanGaalen will be here on the Island at Sugar Nightclub on Oct. 10. His shows are invariably accompanied by animations created by the man himself, and you'd be unwise if you missed the chance to see a genius at work.

- Paula Shyba

Ferras
Aliens & Rainbows
CAPITOL

Since the lead single from *Aliens & Rainbows* was featured in the seventh season of American Idol, L.A. based singer Ferras has been enjoying moderate success. His pop ballads are the perfect blend of smiley optimism and bouncy superficiality to attract a loyal following of teenage girls.

"Hollywood's Not America" was used as an exit song on the show, bolstering the attention to this new singer's debut album. Not long after, "Liberation Day" was released to fan enthusiasm. Both, however, are entirely forgettable and almost impossible to differentiate from artists like The Scissor Sisters and Mika.

The opening moments of "Liberation Day," the album's first track, are so reminiscent of the Scissor Sisters that listeners may check whether or not they put in the right CD.

Ferras bursts into each song with a cheerful flair. He seems to have some charisma, but his material is weak. Even Bono couldn't make these songs interesting.

Aliens & Rainbows was produced by *The Matrix*, who has worked with a number of music industry heavyweights, including Avril Lavigne, Britney Spears and Shakira. Perhaps that's where the album's generic, empty sound comes from.

Ferras would fit in nicely with the Top 40 hits getting regular play at Victoria night clubs, and may be welcome background noise at a crowded party, but probably isn't worth the purchase price.

-Will Johnson

The Populars
A Pill for Everyone
KINDLING MUSIC

The Populars sound good looking. But not in a cool, sexy rock star way. More like the rich kid in high school that everyone secretly hates. The one with a flock of female followers, the brand new convertible and designer clothes.

Not only that, but the Populars are also irritatingly happy. Not like Bob Marley or Jack Johnson, who can make lethargic contentment seem like a worthwhile lifelong pursuit. The Populars give off more of a "look at how cool I am, everybody loves me" sort of vibe.

Judging by the cover, a cold blue depiction of a pill resting in anxious hands, most would expect a melancholy collection of depressing emo songs. *A Pill for Everyone*, however, is nothing more than a fluffy collection of bouncy kegger ballads with titles like "Teenage Party Girl," "I Feel Better Now" and "Good News."

Throughout their quick, forgettable songs, The Populars seem to have a lot of the elements that made bands like Weezer and Barenaked Ladies so popular over the years. But somehow, all the elements don't seem to add up. Lyrics like "good news, good, good news / that's all I want today / good news, good, good news / that's how I want it to stay," make their songs seem empty, and the endless repetition makes it difficult to differentiate between songs.

Their single, "Weekend Warrior," received moderate radio play this summer. Probably the strongest song on the album, it has catchy moments but gets boring by the two-minute mark.

Listeners who are looking for something nondescript to play in the background while they watch TV might be able to stomach The Populars, but it would probably be best to leave this collection on the shelf.

-Will Johnson

Elliott Brood
Mountain Meadows
SIX SHOOTER RECORDS

It's September, and you might need music to study by, but Elliott Brood's *Mountain Meadows* would be better suited for your upcoming road trip. With 13 songs ready for rolling out into the open country, you can almost envision the fields and telephone poles whipping by.

With raspy vocals, guitar medleys and foot-stompin' beats the whole album through, it's no wonder this prairie band has been making a feel-good name for themselves — Elliott Brood's sound could mimic the Beatles-gone-bluegrass.

Since the debut of their EP, *Tin Type* they've carried their rich tunes through seven cross-Canada tours, and will be stopping at Victoria's own Sugar Nightclub on Sept. 21.

- Danielle Pope

date
Sept. 22 - 26
place
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hours
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last day
9 - 5
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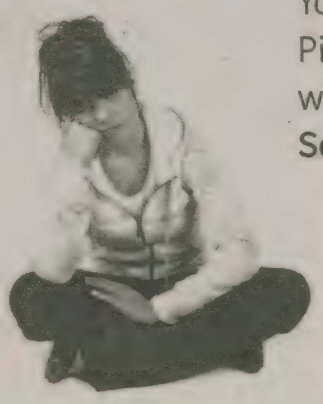

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High school according to Hollywood

Genuine high school portrayals offer timeless lessons about the human character

Bryce Bladon

Cinema usually follows a hackneyed and formulaic approach to the teen blockbuster, hoping to cash in on the awkward teenager in all of us. The football captain stands up for what's right, the dorky girl commands inner beauty and, despite it all, the right guy gets the girl.

JOSH SZCZEPANOWSKI PHOTO

High school movies take university students on a trip through time.

But despite the easy cash-in, there are a few movies that manage to portray school-age gracelessness with all its sweet sincerity. Looking for a little flashback of nostalgia for times past?

Check out the following flicks — you might not miss those awkward days now, but these films won't leave you disappointed.

High school summarized

Dazed and Confused (1993)
Runtime: 103 min
Accuracy score: 8/10

Plot: The year is 1976, and it's the last day of school. Junior high and high school students celebrate their coming of age — could it get any better?

Memorable quote: "That's what I love about these high school girls, man. I get older, they stay the same age."

Why it's matters: This movie has so much to say about starting something new, sticking with what's known and leaving it all behind, and it does it all with pot-heads, preps and pedophiles.

Honourable mentions: *Fast Times at Ridgemont High, The Breakfast Club*

Fitting in

Mean Girls (2004)
Runtime: 96 min
Accuracy score: 7/10

Plot: Cady Heron is the naïve new girl who's been home-schooled her whole life. Enter 'the plastics,' a popular clique who teach her the harsh lessons of high school do's and don'ts. Life's about to get mean.

Memorable quote: "On Wednesdays we wear pink!"

Why it matters: The clique battle-lines and the underhanded nature of girl politics ring true. The honesty Lindsay Lohan brings to Cady make us all feel for the sweet girl just trying to fit in.

Honourable mentions: *Rebel Without a Cause*

The loveable slacker

Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986)
Runtime: 102 min
Accuracy score: 8.5/10

Plot: Ferris Bueller concocts a wild day of playing hooky, despite the efforts of his stubborn principal — crazy antics ensue.

Memorable quote: "Hey, Cameron. You realize if we played by the rules right now we'd be in gym?"

Why it matters: Despite hare-brained schemes that succeed against all odds, the movie gains earnestness in how the characters deal with rude authority, jealous siblings and what really matters in life.

Honourable mentions: *Van Wilder*

The buddy film

Superbad (2007)
Runtime: 119 min
Accuracy score: 9/10

Plot: High school seniors Seth and Evan are forced to deal with their separation as best friends as college hopes loom near and their attempt to get liquor for a party goes awry — we've all been there.

Memorable quote: "You know when you hear girls say, 'Ah man, I was so shit-faced last night, I shouldn't have slept with that guy'? We could be that mistake!"

Why it matters: It's gross, it's rude and it's smart. Despite some wild shenanigans, fantastic acting and sincere writing portray the feelings of growing up, moving out and moving on.

Honourable mentions: *American Pie, Bill and Ted* series

The outcast

Carrie (1976)
Runtime: 90 min
Accuracy score: 7.5/10

Plot: A shy and awkward young girl with telekinetic powers finds herself at the breaking point — proving once and for all it's always the quiet ones.

Memorable quote: "It was bad, Mama. They laughed at me."

Why it matters: We've all been out of place, laughed at, or ridiculed at some point. Carrie demonstrates that feeling to the extreme, and kicks bullying in the face.

Honourable mentions: *Donnie Darko, Napoleon Dynamite*

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Haunted based on the novel by **Chuck Palahniuk**
September 24, 25, 26

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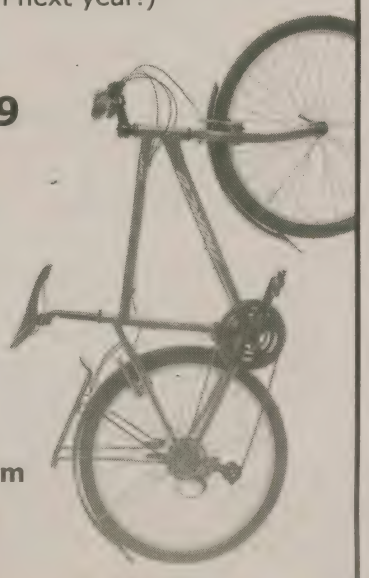

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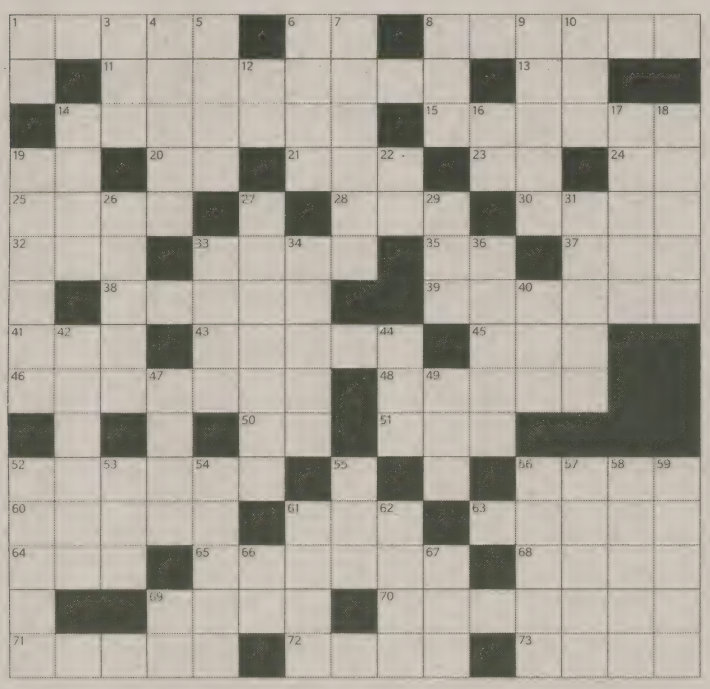
Diversions

MARTLET CROSSWORD BY DAVID KARP



ACROSS

1 National Post founder
6 Copy on an email
8 Unit of electric current
11 Rent receiver
13 Thirteenth letter
14 Monarch's provincial representative
15 Eight-armed cephalopods
19 Victoria's home (abbrev.)
20 Hot air balloon's gas (abbrev.)
21 Game
23 Prince Charles' former wife
24 Paul Bunyan's blue companion
25 Former American tennis star Arthur
28 Two- or three-year-old
30 Small bed size
32 Put down
33 Local rock radio station
35 Study of computers (abbrev.)
37 Japanese airline (abbrev.)
38 Escape
39 Talkative
41 Channel five
43 Traded to Oilers for Chris Pronger
45 Mixed martial arts league (abbrev.)
46 Burger flipper
48 With emphasis
50 Male Spanish article
51 Science class
52 Ambitions
56 Cougar action
60 Set of moral principles
61 B.C. Premier Bennett
63 One thousand kilograms
64 Cadboro Commons (e.g.)
65 Exclusive social group
68 Control-Z
69 Bait holder
70 "We" or "this" (e.g.)
71 Clipper or Coho (e.g.)
72 Furniture vendor
73 Colour-changing products

DOWN

1 Deodorant's foe (abbrev.)
3 Cassius Clay
4 Computer memory
5 Leg joint
6 Crowd of blood
7 Ed Jovanovski or Mike Comrie (e.g.)
8 Much __ About Nothing
9 Small
10 Depressed, quiet personality
14 Permit to enter country
16 Album (abbrev.)
17 Direct with a finger
18 No (slang)
19 Car parkers
22 Informal greeting
26 Lion King henchman antagonist
27 Units of a course
29 Precedes toc
31 Wrist accessory
33 Largest South African tribe
34 Mount Everest location
36 Small digit
40 French news agency (abbrev.)
42 Ancient Greek military city
44 Online giggles (abbrev.)
47 Noodle Box style
49 Rowing tool
52 Coffee without the buzz
53 Highest radio frequency (abbrev.)
54 Sam Waterston's Law and Order district attorney
55 Solutions to common problems (abbrev.)
56 Pitcher's home
57 Irk
58 Not deserved
59 Canada's largest home furnishings retailer
61 Collaborative website
62 Canadian public sector union (abbrev.)
66 __ and behold
67 Period of history
69 Toby's responsibility on The Office (abbrev.)

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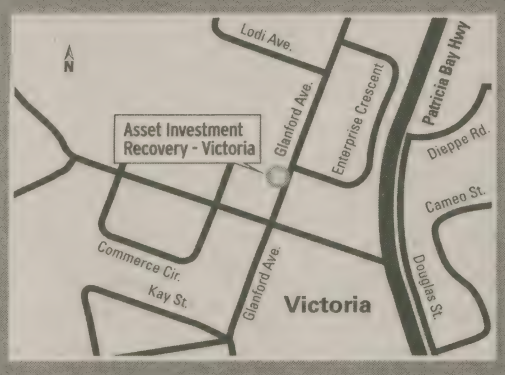

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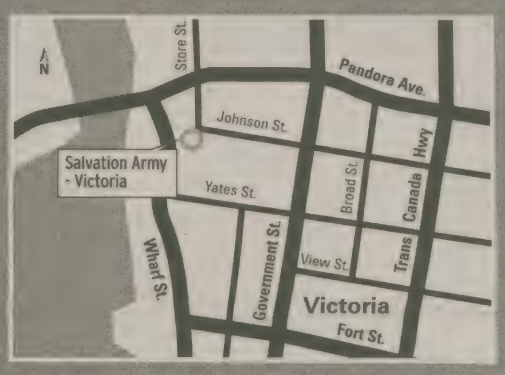

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Q: What are the regulated electronic items included in the program?

A:

DESKTOP COMPUTERS
Includes Central Processing Units (CPUs), mouse, keyboards, cables and other components within the computer. This includes desktop computers, desktop computers acting as servers, and all associated keyboards and cabling.

COMPUTER MONITORS
A display device used for displaying images from computers or other sources that does not meet the definition of a television. This includes traditional Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) and flat panel display technologies.

NOTEBOOK COMPUTERS
Includes portable computers such as notebook, laptop and tablet PCs.

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This includes printing devices that are designed to reside on a work surface, and includes various printing technologies, including Laser & LED (electrophotographic), ink jet, dot matrix, thermal, dye sublimation, etc. and "multi-function" or "all in one" devices that perform different tasks such as copy, scan, fax, print, etc.

TELEVISIONS
A video display device with an imbedded television tuner. This includes various display technologies, such as traditional Cathode Ray Tube (CRT), flat panel or rear projection.

Q: What electronic items are NOT included in the program?

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By Gord Duff

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Lair
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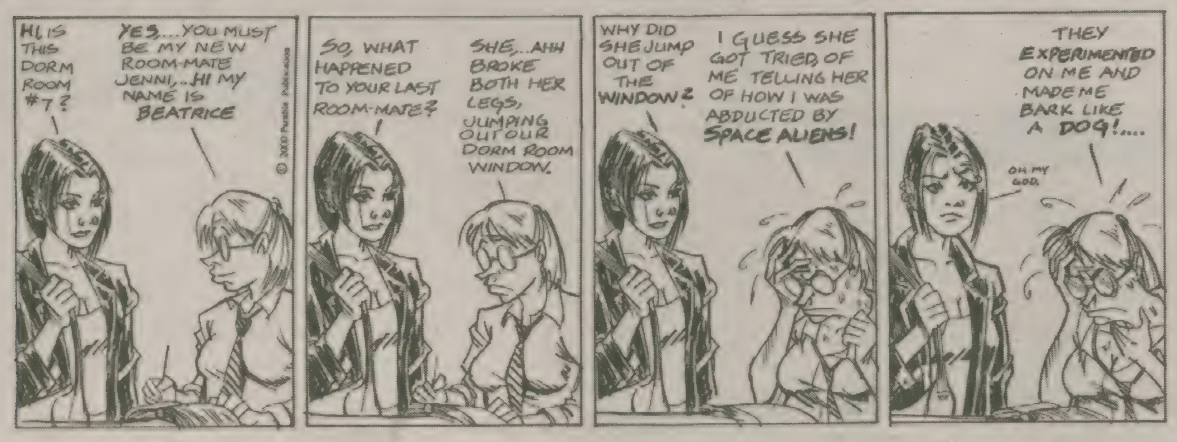
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YES,...YOU MUST BE MY NEW ROOM-MATE JENNI,..HI MY NAME IS BEATRICE
SO, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR LAST ROOM-MATE?
SHE,..AHH BROKE BOTH HER LEGS, JUMPING OUT OUR DORM ROOM WINDOW.
WHY DID SHE JUMP OUT OF THE WINDOW?
I GUESS SHE GOT TRIED OF ME TELLING HER OF HOW I WAS ABDUCTED BY SPACE ALIENS!
OH MY GOD
THEY EXPERIMENTED ON ME AND MADE ME BARK LIKE A DOG!....

Dishwasher Safe

by Lucas Hansen

checkerpop by marc.

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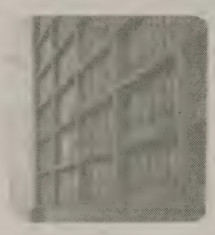

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Events

ON CAMPUS

THURSDAY, SEPT. 18

Woven in Time
All Day
MaPherson Library Gallery
Woven in Time is an exhibition of photographs by University of Victoria student Ashley Akins. These photographs document life in the rural communities of Perus Patakancha valley, of which textile weaving is an integral but endangered part.
Event runs until the end of Sept.
Fee: Free
Info: 250-721-8299
maltpub@finearts.uvic.ca

P/Op!
All Day
University Centre, B115
For the first time, the Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery presents an exhibit featuring works by local and internationally renowned artists in the pop, optical and abstract art genres. Pop art is a Twentieth-century art movement that embraces mass consumerism, often in attempts to undermine it, while op art is the interaction between illusion and picture plane, between understanding and seeing.
Event runs until Sept. 22.
Fee: Free
Info: Aubrey Emlyn
721-6562
maltpub@finearts.uvic.ca

Library Research 101
12:30 - 1 p.m.
McPherson Library, 130
New to university? Unsure of where to start your research? Library Research 101 will help you learn about basic research skills for university by introducing you to tips on exploring your topic, gathering relevant information, and concluding your search. This workshop is aimed at first year students who are new to university or for anyone wanting a refresher on the expectations of academic library research.
Fee: Free
Info: Pia Russell
liblearn@uvic.ca

Alcuin Book Display
All Day
William C Mearns Centre for Learning, Special Collections Reading Room
The Friends of UVic Libraries extend an invitation to view the Alcuin Society 2007 Awards for Excellence in Book Design in Canada, September 4 through 24, 2008, Monday to Friday 9:30-4:00 at the Archives and Special Collections Reading Room in the William C. Mearns Centre for Learning.
Fee: Free
Info: David Brown
250-721-8217
dgbrown@uvic.ca

UVic Surplus Asset Blowout
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Parking Lot #3
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Info: Stephen Wylie
250-472-5148
swylie@uvic.ca

FRIDAY, SEPT. 19

Victoria Arts Fair
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Pheonix Theatre
Department of Theatre hosts the Victoria Arts Fair for all UVic students to learn about Victoria's vibrant arts and culture.
Check out what Victoria's arts scene has to offer you from membership discounts, young adult events, volunteering opportunities and Cheap deals!
Fee: Free
Info: 205-721-7992

Endosymbiosis and Lateral Gene Transfer in Eukaryotic Evolution
2:30 - 4 p.m.
Cunningham Building, 146
A seminar given by Patrick Keeling, Department of Botany, UBC.
Free: Free
Info: Steve Perlman
250-721-6319
stevep@uvic.ca

SATURDAY, SEPT. 20

Lansdowne Guest Lecture
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Maclaurin, B125
with special guest Dr. Judit Frigyesi (Bar Ilan University). The Music of Béla Bartók: 'Curse-clatter' or 'Sunken Bell'?
Phillip T. Young Recital Hall
Fee: Free
Info: Jill Michalski
721-7904
michalsk@uvic.ca

SUNDAY, SEPT. 21

Dr Max Cynader,The Healthy Aging Brain
3 - 5 p.m.
University Centre
The Centre on Aging and the Island Medical Program at the University of Victoria are pleased to announce that Dr. Max Cynader will give the 2008 International Day of the Older Person Lecture.
He has made important contributions to understanding the mechanisms by which early use or misuse of the brain affects its lifetime functionality.
Reservations are recommended.
Fee: Free
Info: UVic Ticket Centre
250-721-8480
ticket@uvic.ca

MONDAY, SEPT. 22

Deaf Awareness Week
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
University Centre, Lobby
Join us in the lobby of the University Centre to learn more about Deaf Awareness Week and the events that will be going on all over campus. Display tables will be set up with technical aids used by Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals as well as information from various organizations.
Fee: Free
Info: 250-472-5557
kristi@uvic.ca

TUESDAY, SEPT. 23

Library Workshop: Google 101
12:30 - 1 p.m.
McPherson Library, 130
Google has revolutionized the way we gather information, but how can you optimize your use of Google? What are the pitfalls of Google you should be aware of? This workshop will help you to search effectively in both Google and Google Scholar, understand when to use Google Scholar versus a library database, and locate the full-text versions of articles.
Drop-ins are welcome, space permitting.
Fee: Free
Info: Pia Russell
liblearn@uvic.ca

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 24

Thinking of the Mahdi in 16th Century Western India.
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Enginering/Computer Science Building, 124
Derryl MacLean is the director of the Centre for the Comparative Study of Muslim Societies and Cultures and an associate professor in the Department of History at SFU. A social historian of religion specializing on Islam, his research centres on the social consequences of religious contact and change, and uses for this purpose data primarily from South and Central Asia.
Fee: Free
Info: CSRS
250-721-6325
csrs@uvic.ca

LIVE CONCERTS

THURSDAY, SEPT. 18

Alex Nichols, Mike Hann, Jeff Scotney, Mike Roma, Keith Gallant @ Canoe
9 - 11:30 p.m., doors at 8 p.m.
Featuring members of Quoia and other reputable Victoria super heroes. (No Minors).
Fee: Free

The Dano Stern Project, Smooch @ Evolution
9 p.m. - 2 a.m.
Tickets available at Old School Tattoos. (No Minors).
Fee: $8 at the door
$6 in advance

Winter Of Freedom, SIMIAN SPECIAL @ Logan's Pub
10 p.m. - 1 a.m., doors at 9 p.m.
Tickets available at the door. (No Minors).
Fee: $7

So You Wanna Be A DJ @ Lucky Bar
10 p.m.
The Lucky Bar presents the best in up-and-coming Victoria DJs, who are here to bring you the newest underground dance music. Hosted by DJ Longshanks, two new guest DJs per week will show their skills, and You (along with an expert panel) get to be the judge! The best DJs over the next few months will proceed to the finals in Jan/Feb. (No Minors).
Fee: $5

YouTube and Facebook Thursday @ Soprano's
9 p.m. - 12 a.m., doors at Noon
Pick your song from our 14,000-song library and we'll film your performance, upload it to YouTube and Facebook, so you can share your performance with friends. (No Minors).
Fee: Free

Cryptopsy, Origin, The Last Felony @ Sugar Night Club
10 p.m. - 2 a.m., doors at 9 p.m.
Tickets available at Lyle's Place, ticketweb.ca, Aces 'n' Spades, and Sideshow.
(No Minors).
Fee: $15 + s/c

FRIDAY, SEPT. 19

GOATS FOR UGANDA benefit Bloody Wilma, Slam Dunk, The Racoons, Liz Beattie @ Lucky Bar
10 p.m.
A benefit for the basic needs of the people of Uganda and India, with an awesome four band bill! (No Minors)
Fee: $10

Down Home blues Sandy Bone @ The Superior
7 - 10 p.m., doors at 5 p.m.
(All Ages).
Fee: Free

SATURDAY, SEPT. 20

Nuvo Wavo @ Ambrosia Event Centre
9 p.m. - 12 a.m., doors at 7 p.m.
Goof off in class to great new wave by artists like DEVO, Blondie, Talking Heads, Talk Talk, The B52s, Ramones and The Clash.
(No Minors).
Fee: $12

Ignite The Sea, Stella, Beat Kids, Apparatus Theory @ Sunset Room
7:30 - 11 p.m., doors at 7 p.m.
(All Ages)
Fee: $10

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP UVIC CREATE ITS FIRST Sustainability Policy and Action Plan. Join us for a consultation session, and help us plan for the future.
Sept. 25, 5-7pm, Clearihue C112
Oct. 8, 2:30-4:30pm, DSB C130
Oct. 23, 5-7pm, Mac D116
www.uvic.ca/sustainability

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2-4pm, Monday-Friday.

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FEMALE FIGURE MODEL WANTED for fine art. Slim preferred. $40/hr. 250-920-8940.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FREE Lecture, Food Samples, and Recipes
"How to be a Healthy Vegetarian"
Being filmed for international TV Supreme Master Ching Hai International Association
Sunday, Sept. 28, 5 – 8p.m.
Location: Ukrainian Cultural Centre, 322 Douglas Street, Victoria
RSVP: Tel: 250-652-7020 or e-mail to smchiavictoria@gmail.com

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All experience levels welcome. No tools or supplies required. The SPOKES storage cage is located in the parkcade below the University Centre building on campus.
For more information contact Sarah Webb at 250-721-6678 or swebb@uvic.ca.

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Four medals for Dixon

David Karp

UVic psychology student Stephanie Dixon will return home from the Paralympic Games on Sept. 19 with four medals in hand.

For the 24-year-old who was born without a right leg, the medals did not come easy. Dixon opened the Games with a 100-metre butterfly performance, where, despite bettering her own Canadian record, she missed out on a medal by 0.06 seconds. But Dixon's experience from competing in the Paralympics in Athens and Sydney helped her through.

"It was pretty disappointing," she said in a phone interview from Beijing. "It started out on a rough note for sure. But I've been doing this for so long that I can put a bad race behind me and use it as motivation in other events."

Dixon said she did do a bit of both, and it paid off. In her next event, she won a bronze in the 100-metre freestyle.

"The bronze medal in the 100-metre freestyle is the one that's closest to my heart from these games," Dixon said. "It's not my best race — I haven't had a personal best in it in six years. It definitely took the most courage and determination to get."

Dixon then won silver medals in the 200-metre individual medley and 400-metre freestyle. But she saved her best for last, winning a gold medal in the 100-metre backstroke and breaking the world record in the process.

"It's the most amazing thing to have year after year of hard work come down to one race," Dixon said. "But the feeling of having your national anthem played in front of everyone — nobody can ever take that away from you."

The swimmer said it seemed like she had the support of an entire city behind her while she was competing.

"My friends are keeping in touch through Facebook. My wall's just covered every day with people cheering me on," she said. "I even had a message from the DJs of Jack FM saying they're rooting for me."

But one person who wasn't there to watch her compete in person was her club coach, Ron Jacks. He was expected to travel to Beijing with the swim team, but wasn't able to after he suffered a heart infection. Dixon talked with Jacks twice a day over Skype to get advice on races, and said she wouldn't be where she is now without his support and that of UVic coach Peter Vizsolyi.

"I dedicate my entire experience to [Jacks]," Dixon said. "Even though he wasn't there physically, I brought him to Beijing in my heart."

Dixon also fed off of her competitors. She once again faced South African rival Natalie Du Toit, who Dixon finished second to in four races at the last Paralympics. But Dixon said the competitors are friends and help to push each other.

"To get the best out of myself, I need her to get the best out of herself," Dixon said.

Even after winning four medals, Dixon's biggest challenge may still be yet to come. She has missed the first three weeks of school so will have lots of catching up to do. But before she goes back to the books, she's going to celebrate. The swim team hit the town Monday night, and Dixon spent Tuesday visiting Tiananmen Square and the Great Wall of China with comedian Rick Mercer, host of the Rick Mercer Report on CBC.

Dixon admitted she's never seen the show before, but enjoyed hanging out with the comedian.

"He's so great," she said. "He always jumps right in there."

The gold medal marked a great finish for the swimmer, who said this will probably be her last Paralympics — at least for swimming. She's been talking to people with the Canadian Paralympic ski team and may hit the slopes for her next challenge.

"I'd love to start something from the bottom," Dixon said. "I'd love to have a clean slate."

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE RIDEWOOD/SWIMMING CANADA

Stephanie Dixon celebrates her Beijing Paralympic success with a post-race smile.

WHAT'S ON

- **Field hockey:** After sweeping a two-game series last weekend, UVic women will try to make it four wins in a row when they host Alberta (0-1) Saturday and Sunday. Both games start at 11 a.m. next to McKinnon Gym.
- **Soccer:** It's a double double-header weekend. On Saturday, the UVic women and division-leading men play Calgary. On Sunday, Lethbridge visits Centennial Stadium. The action starts at noon both days.

SCORES

Men's soccer
UVic 1 @ Fraser Valley 0 (Sept. 14)
UVic 3 @ Trinity W. 0 (Sept. 13)

Women's soccer
UVic 2 @ Fraser Valley 0 (Sept. 14)
Trinity W. 2 vs. UVic 1 (Sept. 13)

Men's rugby
James Bay 55 vs. UVic 5 (Sept. 13)

Women's field hockey
UVic 4 @ Calgary 1 (Sept. 14)
UVic 2 @.Calgary 1 (Sept. 13)

TOP TEN

FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2008

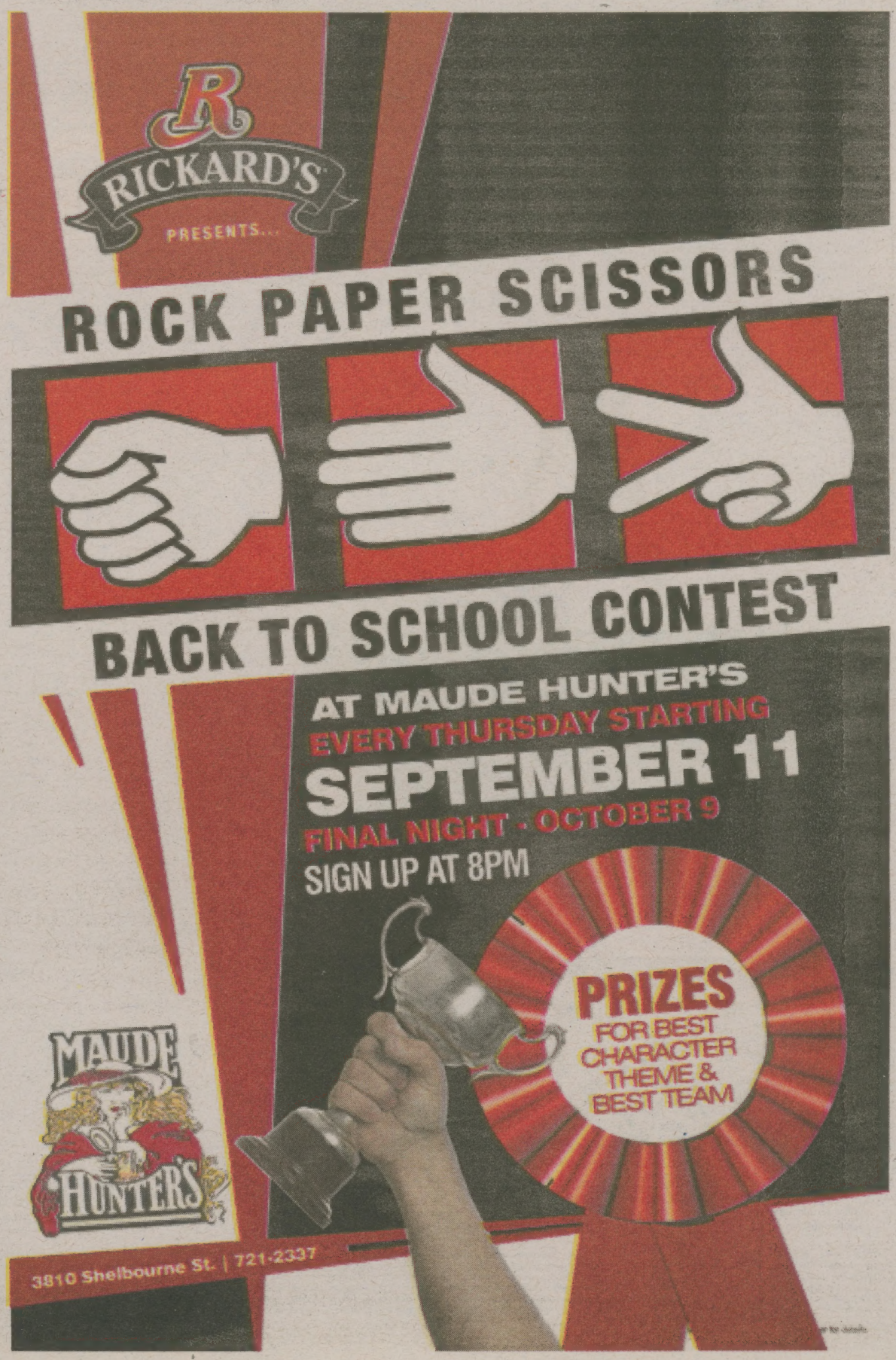
CFUV 101.9 FM cfuv.uvic.ca

1. CHAD VANGAALEN *
   Soft Airplane (Flemish Eye)
2. VARIOUS ARTISTS *
   Emergency Room, Vol. 1 (Grotesque Modern/Nominal)
3. STEREOLAB
   Chemical Chords (4AD)
4. TINDERSTICKS
   The Hungry Saw (Constellation)
5. RACEBANNON
   Acid or Blood (Southern)
6. sBACH
   sBACH (Suicide Squeeze)
7. GIANT SAND
   proVISIONS (Yep Roc)
8. DON CABALLERO
   Punkgasm (Relapse)
9. RATATAT
   LP3 (XL)
10. VARIOUS ARTISTS
    Calypsoul 70: Caribbean Soul and Calyspo Crossover, 1969-1979

* Canadian artist † local artist

CFUV is the University of Victoria's Campus/Community Radio Station. To find out more information about CFUV, including our programming schedule, volunteer information and complete charts, please visit our website at www.cfuv.uvic.ca.

Hear the weekly top ten on Charts and Graphs every Wednesday at 2:00PM on CFUV 101.9FM.



Harry Potter's Quidditch is a sport that flies off the page

Nicole Wilson
THE NAVIGATOR

NANAIMO, B.C. (CUP) — Quaffle, Beater and Snitch — if you don't know these words, chances are you're not familiar with Quidditch and Harry Potter.

This fantastical game of skill and flying broomsticks is flying onto the fields of university arenas. The Intercollegiate Quidditch Association, for example, currently boasts 70 teams.

The non-magical interpretation of Quidditch does not include flying broomsticks. However, each team has the same collection of three Chasers, one Keeper, two Beaters and the most coveted position of all, the Seeker. The Seeker alone can end each game.

Many variations have made the sport an eclectic mix of soccer, basketball, football and even water polo. Rules vary accordingly, as each organization finds new and more entertaining methods to achieve the passion that J.K. Rowling instills in each match. Quaffles and Bludgers have been replaced with volleyballs and frisbees.

The biggest issue plaguing the new sport is the Snitch — a palm-sized ball fitted with two golden wings. In the Harry Potter books, it flies around the Quidditch pitch, evading the competing team's Seekers. The Snitch has been replaced with a bouncy ball, remote-controlled plane and even a person dressed in yellow with a small ball attached to their back.

The Seeker is charged with catching the Snitch — if they do, that team wins lots of points. Keepers guard their team's three hoops from the opposing Chasers. The Chasers aim is to get the Quaffle through one of the hoops while Beaters attack the opposing team to prevent them from scoring points or catching the Snitch. Once the Snitch is caught and the game is declared over, the team with the most points wins.

No matter how strange Quidditch appears, it is growing. The only question left now: how high will Quidditch fly?

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VIKES FALL HARD TO JAMES BAY

ANDREW SMITH PHOTO

The Vikes men's rugby team were defeated by their bitter rivals, the provincial champions, James Bay AA on Sept 13.

With just five points scored through a penalty try, UVic's younger players got a taste of Victoria's top flight rugby. The young Vikes held James Bay to a margin of 29 points before being blown away in the second half. Coach Doug Tate applauded their efforts, despite a 50-5 loss.

"I thought it was close for a long time," Tate said. "[James Bay] had a few bounces go their way. This was an exhibition match, and I thought our younger guys did quite well."

UVic had several chances with electrifying runs from veteran Gordie Sawyers and winger Doug Mathews. Their efforts, unfortunately, were silenced with full-field runs by a squad ready to defend their provincial title.

SEASON PREVIEW

Vikes fighting to keep national rugby title

Andrew Smith

Victoria will host the highest calibre of Canadian rugby during the Vikes 2008-09 season.

With all five of the Vancouver Island Elite League teams qualifying for the provincials last year, and a large number of national players training locally, the hits will be harder, the runs craftier and the intensity higher.

From Nov. 13 to 16, UVic will host the first CIS National University Championship Rugby Tournament, resurrected after a 10-year absence. Both previous tournaments, in 1997 and 1998, were won by the Vikes. You can bet that this year's team will be keen to retain their title as the best university squad in Canada.

Though the Vikes got hammered 50-5 by James Bay AA on Sept. 13, the group playing on Friday for the 6 p.m. home opener against the Castaway Wanderers at Wallace Field will be a completely different squad. With over 20 players returning from last weekend's national training camp, UVic will be stacked with some of the best players in Canada.

As a result of captain Pat Kearney's departure, Team Canada veteran Dave Spicer will now lead the Vikes. Equipped with a vibrant attacking backline, the Vikes will be ready to play their fast-paced rugby against the older teams in their division.

Nathan Hirayama will return from a summer injury to kick his side to glory at the standoff position. Feeding him the ball will be a scrum half of the highest ability — four nationally-experienced players are currently competing for the crucial position.

The first string has yet to be finalized, as several players impressed the coaching staff during the pre-season.

"It's not going to be an easy team to make," said coach Doug Tate. "We have a real nice group of rugby players and quite a bit of depth."

But expect big hitters Neil Meechan and Adam Kleeberger to be back in his squad, as well as a number of new additions. Rookie Kyle Buckley who scored UVic's only points through a penalty try last weekend will be a strong player to follow. Also joining the squad will be the U-20 Canada transfer from McGill Tony Wodziki and former university basketball player Mike Burke.

Friday's match will feature an opposition weighted with national players that recently moved to Victoria. After the Castaway Wanderers ended the Vikes' 2008 spring season with a convincing 18-9 win, UVic will be ready to avenge the loss in the season's opener.

The match will be a clash of Team Canada's best as several national division players will compete. Break out the yellow and blue and support Victoria's finest as they go head to head with the Castaway Wanderers on Friday.

B.C. innovation helps people with disabilities

Julia Munk

Access to public space is an issue of historic importance for the disabled community.

But while there have been great advances toward ensuring that urban settings are more accessible, little attention has been paid to natural settings. Hiking trails and nature paths have been largely off-limits to wheelchair users.

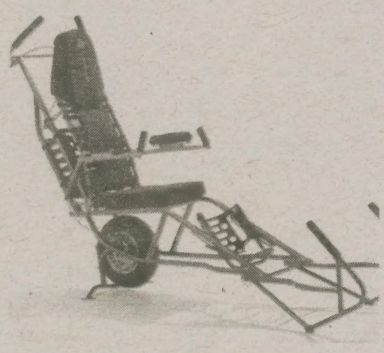
Now, an adapted wheelchair, the TrailRider, aims to provide access for people with disabilities to a wide variety of outdoor opportunities, from enjoying local nature trails to reaching the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro.

This new technology is the brainchild of Vancouver Mayor Sam Sullivan and Paul Cermak, the first volunteer engineer for Tera Society of North America, an organisation that recruits skilled technicians to create assistive devices for people with disabilities.

The first prototype of the TrailRider was developed in the 1980s, using an old chaise lounge. In 2006, the newest and most user-friendly version of the TrailRider, the Black Diamond, was released.

The TrailRider is human-powered with six Sherpas and has been described as "a cross between a wheelbarrow and a rickshaw." But this advanced piece of lightweight engineering is made to the highest level of precision to ensure the safety of the rider and Sherpas.

The Disability Foundation, a non-profit organization founded by Sam Sullivan in 1979, works with groups such as the B.C. Mobility Opportunities Society (BCMOS) and supports them in providing a chance for people with disabilities to try the TrailRider through a number of programs ranging from weekend nature trails to extreme outdoor adventures.



PROVIDED PHOTO

The TrailRider makes it easier for wheelchair users to enjoy nature.

This technology provides students with disabilities the chance to look beyond office jobs, said Stephen Hunt, a program coordinator for The Disability Foundation.

He explained that the TrailRider gave a student with a disability at the University of Alberta the ability to complete his degree in geology by allowing him to participate in wilderness field trips that were essential to the completion of his course work. The TrailRider also gave a woman from Victoria the experience of sleeping at the summit of Mount Everest last year.

The TrailRider has opened new opportunities for people with disabilities, raising awareness about accessibility issues beyond the manufactured world to the natural one.

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